

THE GATEWAY

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Decision on int'l tuition expected Friday

COSANNA PRESTON
Senior News Editor

A town-hall meeting Tuesday with the U of A provost calmed students anticipating the University's formal proposal of a significant international tuition hike by this Friday.

The meeting, suggested by Students' Union President Jordan Blatz, permitted international students to converse directly with Provost Dr Carl Amrhein, allowing both sides to explain their logic and express their concerns.

"I was happy to see they held the meeting and to see as many students turn out as they did. A lot of the same concerns were raised but raised directly to the administration," said Blatz.

According to Luis Lopez, the international student representative with the Council on Student Affairs, a branch within the General Faculties Council, the administration's stance "boils down to money."

He was relieved that the provost seemed to listen to concerns during the meeting, but felt Amrhein had put the burden on international students to prove his proposal wrong and was not taking strides to understand the international student position.

"I was happy to see they held the meeting and to see as many students turn out as they did. A lot of the same concerns were raised but raised directly to the administration."

JORDAN BLATZ,
STUDENTS' UNION PRESIDENT

"It's not about whether the University needs the money or not; it's clear that they need it. It's about the international students who came from halfway around the world with a budget in mind of how much their education would cost, then halfway through their degree the University is saying it's going to cost you 25 per cent more. And that is what is very unfair to us and that is what [the provost] is failing to understand," said Lopez.

Lopez mentioned the University planned to assist students through scholarships and bursaries funded through the tuition hike.

PLEASE SEE TUITION • PAGE 2



LEANNE FONG

WE BE GETTIN' DOWN WITH NO DELAY Ross Moroz delves into the life of Mix Master Mike. To find out what he had to say turn to page 21.

Edmontonians join in nationwide anti-Bush protests

COSANNA PRESTON
Senior News Editor

Calling for George Bush to "go home," a chain of singing people weaved around a crowd of protestors Tuesday night at Churchill Square in response to the American leader's visit to Canada.

Heaped on the cement, a deflated George Bush figure received the odd angry kick as the crowd chanted and sang. The protest drew around 100 people and was one of many across the country yesterday protesting the

arrival of Bush on Canadian soil. From Vancouver to the Yukon, to Montreal and Hlin Hon, crowds rallied together against the president.

"Bush's visit is a very, very serious problem," said Peggy Morton of the Edmonton Coalition Against War and Racism, the organizers of the event.

"It's an affront to our sovereignty, to our stand for peace. It's an affront to our sense of social responsibility. It's an affront to everything that we hold dear to have Bush come here, and he is a war criminal. He should be indicted."

Accusations regarding Bush's foreign policy was the theme of the evening's events.

In fact, the opposition to Bush's Canadian visit has been so strong that there were concerns about the president addressing a potentially hostile House of Commons.

Morton deemed his lack of attendance there a "good thing" and also criticized his Wednesday Halifax visit, where Bush thanked the city for their assistance after 11 September, 2001, when many planes were grounded, leaving American passengers stranded.

Morton said that if he truly wanted to thank the people, he should have done so three years ago.

From talk about annexing Canada, to the imposition of democracy on other sovereign states, there was a general sense of anger and determination expressed by the crowd and echoed by those on the loud speaker or in front of cameras.

"We want justice for the people. We want George Bush to get what he deserves" one man yelled at a videographer.

PLEASE SEE PROTEST • PAGE 2

Maclean's survey shows U of A's budgetary woes: Abboud

CATLIN CRAWSHAW
News Editor

For the second consecutive year, the U of A has ranked sixth overall in Maclean's magazine's yearly assessment of Canadian universities, but a supplemental survey suggests that not all U of A graduates are satisfied with their educational experience.

The magazine's 13th annual assessment of Canadian schools, published in mid-November, was accompanied by a survey of 12 334 random graduates from universities across the country.

In collaboration with universi-

ties and statisticians, graduates were asked to assess their schools in terms of teaching and instruction, learning environment, library resources, student services, extracurricular environment and entire educational experience.

"We've been wanting to do this for a long, long time, [because] having a satisfaction report on what people were actually experiencing at universities [is] the most important thing to know," said Maclean's editor-at-large Ann Dowsett Johnston.

"[The survey] told a fascinating story about where people were happy and where they weren't."

"We've been wanting to do this for a long, long time, [because] having a satisfaction report on what people were actually experiencing at universities [is] the most important thing to know."

ANN DOWSETT JOHNSTON,
MACLEAN'S EDITOR-AT-LARGE

But while the U of A is among the top ten Canadian universities offering doctoral programs, and it ranks fifth in terms of reputation, only 60 per cent of graduates polled would recommend the University to a friend.

In addition, only 51 per cent of graduates thought the instruction was "very good," and 41 per cent believed student services were "very good," although 78 per cent thought their U of A education significantly benefited them.

According to Students' Union Vice-President (External) Alex Abboud, the student survey reflects the U of A's budgetary woes.

PLEASE SEE MACLEAN'S • PAGE 2

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12 You got to know when to hold 'em, know when to fold 'em, know when to walk away and know when to run. Chris Samuel can beat your pot. Don't believe it? Just read his feature.

From the archives

Campus Pro-Choice, a student group at the U of A, organized a campaign to promote the legalization of abortion and the establishment of a free-standing abortion clinic in Alberta. The vice-president of Campus Pro-Choice argued that many students are pro-choice. By means of a postcard campaign, in which individuals made their views known to members of parliament, the student group hoped to raise awareness about the support for a woman's right to choose.

1985

Achtung!

Thanks for reading, folks, but this is, sadly, the last real paper of the semester. If you catch our drift, Watch for a very special issue next week, and have yourselves a merry little semester break.



17 A bratty baby's been keeping Ann Arden from getting any shut-eye. How insensitive. But the singer/writer wasn't too tired to speak to the Gateway about her new book. See A&E.

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colophon

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genres of choice are CTR, SR and Metal Core. Sold 5
Snake, you've created a Time Paradox Game Over!

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Provost must realize student perspective: int'l student

TUITION • CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

But he argued the planned \$250 000
in funding was not enough—it would
only subsidize about five per cent of
international students. He argued the
administration failed to look beyond
the money to see the overall impact on
international students.“The provost is a commander
who has the possibility of hearing
intelligence without much of an
opportunity cost but he decidesanyway not to hear the intelligence
and sends troops to the front line,”
said Lopez.“The most worrying part is that the
commander will gauge whether his
decision was good or not depending
on how many dead or wounded sol-
diers come back from the front line.
This seems to be what the administra-
tion is doing so far.”As of press time the University
administration had nothing to add.

Budget cuts significant factor in rankings, says Maclean's

MACLEAN'S • CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

“We are one of the top universities
in the country, I definitely see that,
but the cuts to our operating funding
and the rising costs have really hurt
the quality and hurt the experience of
students at the U of A,” he said.Students with severe financial dif-
ficulties due to rising tuition are
especially missing out on a posi-
tive educational experience, Abboud
noted.“An increasing number of students
are having trouble making ends meet,
and that's cutting into and dramati-
cally affecting the experience they're
having on campus,” he said.For Dowset Johnston, cuts are a sig-
nificant factor in the ranking resultsbecause they directly affect the learn-
ing environment.“I think that's the key question
here, is what has happened in terms of
cuts, in terms of student-faculty ratios,
these are the big things. And I think
it's very important to be aware of the
changes,” she said.“We all understand why healthcare
has stolen all the thunder in terms
of a public dialogue, but I think the
really important question is what's
happened to higher education. And
there's no doubt that the university
system that I was involved in and the
university system [students today] are
involved in are very different.”The U of A administration was not
available for comment.

LEANNE FONG

“THE PEOPLE UNITED WILL NEVER BE DEFEATED” Protestors rally downtown.

Rally protests US policies

PROTEST • CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

“We must have a government that's
going to stand up for the aspirations
of the people, not for Bush, annexa-
tion, integration, and war,” shouted
Morton over the loudspeaker.A cheer erupted as she handed off
the microphone and the sound of
beating drums and the chain of sing-
ing protesters grew as it continued to
circle the crumpled figure of Bush.“I think it's excellent to see that
resistance is ongoing,” said Kevan
Hunter, an arts student at the U of A.“The war in Iraq is dragging on and
on, but the resistance is heightening;
more people are beginning to see that
this has to be stopped and we're the
only ones who are going to do it.”Though the square was far from
filled, organizers were very happy with
the event's attendance. Mike Hudema,
a well-known local activist, noted the
chilly weather as a detriment, but said
he was pleased nonetheless.“It shows the convictions. These
types of things are happening right
across the country... [Bush has] flown
right in the face of international law
by invading Iraq without a UN Security
Council resolution,” he said.“[The American government] con-
tinues to impose democracy and that's
something you can't do. Democracy is
a higher idea that needs to come from
the people and we should be support-
ing the people there. Bombing doesn't
bring peace to anybody.”

STREETERS

With exams on their way, people are starting to think about studying.

Do you have any weird study habits?

Brianne Brault
Ag/For IVTaylor Krymusa
Nutritional Food
Sciences IIPaul Bordush
Engineering IKevin Waugh
Computing
Science IIII try to balance on my exercise ball for
as long as I can while repeating what I'm
reading over to myself.I drink an excessive amount of Diet
Coke.I watch Frontiers of Engineering while I
study.I'm not really the type of person who
gets stressed out, so I just study the
night before and see how it goes.

Compiled and photographed by Ramin Ostad and Ross Prusakowski

Whyte Ave bars face lower capacities

A news feature on the city's plans for a quieter Whyte Avenue

NICOLE TOMLINSON
News Writer

Restaurant and bar owners in Old Strathcona are frustrated with the city's new business licensing changes that reduce the number of patrons allowed in their establishments.

The new licenses issued by the City of Edmonton Planning and Development Department cite zoning-capacity numbers that are lower than traditional fire-code regulations. Businesses in Old Strathcona were asked to comply by 1 November, 2004.

The zoning-permit numbers are based on factors like parking and potential impact on the surrounding community.

For some businesses on Whyte Avenue, that number translates into a huge drop: The Attic's capacity plummeted from 142 to 50, The Billiard Club's limit has been reduced to 204 from 230, and Suite 69 Bar and Lounge is only permitted 59 people, a significant drop from their previous 140.

According to Matt Colpitts, director of the Old Strathcona Hospitality Association, 40 to 50 businesses in the area will have their capacity dropped between 20 and 60 per cent.

"When you have your capacity cut by 60 per cent, it becomes difficult to pay your rent. If these numbers are enforced, there will be bars affected, and even put out of business," he said.

Once all the new numbers are issued, businesses city-wide will be able to apply for an expansion on their number, but there's a catch for those in Old Strathcona.

"The particular difference in Whyte Avenue is that [we are] not to approve applications for new bars or expansions of existing bars," said Mark Garrett, head of City Planning and Development.

This means that businesses in the area will not be approved for an expansion on their zoning-capacity numbers.

Bryan Anderson, a city councillor in Ward 5, said that the most important thing is that capacity numbers are consistent, whether they drop in some cases or not.

"There is some subjectivity to the development-permit numbers, and bar owners may not like the number that they end up [with], but ... they need to know what number they have to comply to," he said.

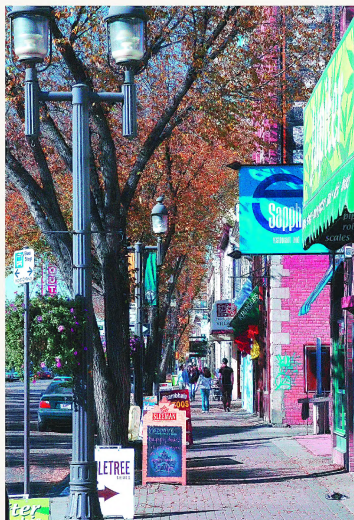
Anderson said that the business owners should concentrate their energy on changing the ban on licensing expansion when the moratorium comes up for review in fall of next year.

"It is important right now that the Hospitality Association get busy and start showing all of the stakeholders that they will have input that will solve some of the problems. When the review occurs, that will be the time to talk about adjusting the numbers," he said.

That won't work for business owners, who would have to operate in uncertainty until the review.

"When you own a business, you need some security that you can base your plan on: the number of employees you can hire, the amount of people you can expect," said Shirley Lowe, executive director of the Old Strathcona Business Association.

"If it's all up in the air, the business means nothing: you can't sell



QUIETING THE STRIP The centre of Edmonton's nightlife could soon suffer.

it, you can't move away from it and you can't even plan month to month."

"When you have your capacity cut by 60 per cent, it becomes difficult to pay your rent. If these numbers are enforced, there will be bars affected and even put out of business."

**MATT COLPITTS,
DIRECTOR, OLD STRATHCONA
HOSPITALITY ASSOCIATION**

The Old Strathcona Hospitality Association feels that bars were not properly informed.

"For the city to pull this other number out of the files somewhere and say, 'Well, you should have known this and you should have been following this number all along' when they never provided it to businesses is wrong," said Colpitts.

"Some of these numbers go back to the days when liquor laws stated that you could only consume alcohol in a seat," he said.

"Then the liquor laws changed so you could consume standing up. The old number of seats only applied to how many physical chairs or stools you could have. Somewhere along the line the city has decided that number of seats from whenever means occupancy, and I think that's up for debate," he explained.

Garrett said posting the city zoning-capacity limit on business licenses in Old Strathcona was one step of many the city has taken to try and address the area's zoning issues.

"On the basis of continuous complaints from the neighbourhood, the decision was made to put these

limits on business licenses for the entire city, starting with Whyte Avenue," he said.

"What we want to achieve is to make it clear for both patrons and the operator that there is a [capacity limit], and a responsibility to maintain that number. We don't expect an awful lot of violations, to be honest with you."

Colpitts is worried that complying with the zoning capacity will make the amount of people going to Whyte Avenue bars drop even lower than the city's numbers allow.

"Enforcing these lower numbers will remove about 4000 of the 12 000 bar seats on Whyte Avenue. The problem is if you take away 80 people from a business that serves 140, the other 60 aren't going to be there either," Colpitts said.

"What you're really talking about is wiping the hospitality industry in half; it won't have the same attraction."

Lowe argued that the city should take responsibility for not informing business owners about the zoning-capacity number when they applied for a business license.

"When business owners went to Planning and Development and got a business permit, the number has never come up. ... If City Planning thinks that [capacity] number is important, they should have been flagging it," she said.

Lowe said the solution to the problem lies in a cooperative approach between the city, the business owners, and the community, not in a reduction in capacity numbers.

"Whyte Avenue has become the main social street in the city. Whether you're in the bar, or on the street eating ice cream, or drinking coffee, you're there because other people are there," she said.

"This is an opportunity for everybody to do something that will actually make a difference. If we come together then we can, but if we hold our positions, everybody loses."

Campus Nightlife



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Old School Hip Hop

A Decade Under the Influence

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Every Saturday Night



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Wednesday, December 8, 9 PM

Last Day of Karaoke Bash
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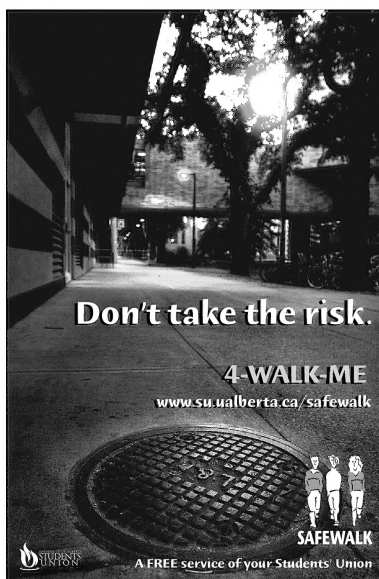
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Québec int'l students to work off campus

AARON WRIGHT
The McGill Daily

MONTREAL (CUP)—Citizenship and Immigration Canada had a change of heart this year, allowing dozens of international students to work off-campus throughout Québec during their studies without separate permits.

But students in Montréal and Québec City will have to wait up to two years longer before they are allowed to take part in the pilot project.

Jason Blank, president of the McGill International Student Network, said he is enthusiastic about the program, but condemned the fact Montréal and Québec City are excluded, maintaining it deprives students of the ability to participate in internship programs.

"The fact that international students can't work gives them a competitive disadvantage and makes their degrees less valuable," Blank said.

Still, this doesn't shake his enthusiasm for the program, scheduled to be extended to the cities in September 2006.

"If the program is accepted as policy, it would be the greatest thing for international students," he said.

Blank expressed concern about McGill's willingness to hire the staff required to administer the program.

But Pauline L'écuyer, manager of McGill's International Student Services, said she's confident the University will make the program work.

"It will be challenging for us at

McGill, but we will put everything in place for international students to be able to participate," she said.

She also noted the University currently allows students to participate in internship programs by declaring them necessary to a student's academic program.

"If the program is accepted as policy, it would be the greatest thing for international students."

JASON BLANK,
PRESIDENT MCGILL
INTERNATIONAL STUDENT NETWORK

Contrary to Blank's appraisal, L'écuyer sees the most opposition coming from the federal government rather than the University.

"Immigration Canada wants to put in place a system with very strict monitoring of students ... with students limited to 15 or 20 hours of work off-campus," she said.

She asserted these controls are unnecessary obstacles that will complicate a program with the potential to help a lot of students.

Guillaume Laviole, vice-president of the Fédération étudiante universitaire du Québec (FEUQ), Québec's provincial student lobby group, has been lobbying the government to extend

the pilot project to include Montréal and Québec City by September 2005, rather than 2006.

"Over the past months, a broad consensus has emerged ... that the current pilot project must be extended to Montréal and Québec City as soon as possible," he wrote.

FEUQ said it's realistic in its demand the program be pushed up by one year, claiming the federal government remains the only roadblock.

George Soule, national chair of the Canadian Federation of Students, criticized the federal government's intentions, suggesting it could use the program as a justification for increasing international tuition.

Is the federal government "looking to provide equality to international students, or is their goal to provide [students with] money, so that they can raise tuition fees?" he asked.

In terms of the current situation, Soule said he did not see the logic of limiting the pilot project to only certain regions of Québec.

"Québec City and Montréal have 90 per cent of the international students in Québec, so the pilot program is only available to ten per cent of the students," he said.

To qualify for the pilot project, students must be over 18 years old, hold a valid student visa and be a full-time student in good standing at a university outside Québec City or Montréal. Students are limited to working no more than 15 hours per week.

Unofficial files kept on campus residents

JONATHAN WOODWARD
British Columbia Bureau Chief

VANCOUVER (CUP)—Students living in campus housing at universities in BC aren't being told their residences keep unofficial files on them in online, searchable databases.

Hundreds of student advisors can access the files, but the students themselves are not allowed to see them for reasons ranging from residence policy to provincial privacy law.

"It's creepy," said Brian Richard, a resident of Place Vanier at the University of British Columbia (UBC). "You should be able to see what's in the file."

According to residence discipline, if you breach the contract you signed at the beginning of the year, you'll get written up in a formal report.

Usually, repeat offenders face further punishment, like eviction.

But what they aren't told about are comments in the system drawn up by advisors about the students themselves—even if a formal incident hasn't happened.

Comments could range from "This person has never been a good member of the floor," to "Unfortunately I have to talk to this guy every other day about noise," said Fred Fotis, director of UBC's housing department.

Files also include records of disputes between residents not formally recorded. The UBC system is online and lists students by name, floor and picture.

"Every office needs to compile information to be able to deal with

students on an individual basis," said Fotis, adding students "should expect" this information to be there.

At the University of Alberta, over 100 advisors can write and access comments, said Darlene Lipinski, assistant director of residence administration.

The comments aren't just used for

"We have staff [who] know whatever's in the system is strictly for their benefit and nobody else's."

DARLENE LIPINSKI,
U OF A RESIDENCE ADMINISTRATION

discipline, but also to help the students, she said. With the records, advisors can privately record and share the ways they help residents through sensitive issues like disabilities and mental health. Only information important to the advisor's job is written, Lipinski said.

"We have staff [who] know whatever's in the system is strictly for their benefit and nobody else's," she said.

It's legal for a university to collect information about its students without their knowledge, said Morag Wilmut of BC's Office of the Information and Privacy Commissioner.

But she said the potential for abuse grows when it's an electronic copy.

With information accessible at any Internet terminal by any residence advisor,

and with students living with their advisors, "it's easier for the electronic copy to wander around," she said.

"It's a ticking time bomb that could lead to breaches of privacy law."

When a student requests their information, they might find opinions and comments are private information belonging to the person who wrote them—meaning the University could black out the information to protect the advisor.

Residences at the University of Victoria have a computer database, but advisors can't access it, said Residence Life Co-ordinator Liisa Gilson.

When an incident is filed, the advisor fills out a report and passes it to senior staff, who upload it to a database.

While advisors have logbooks, no comments are uploaded either as a companion to incident reports or on the students themselves.


"We deal with documented behaviour," she said.

Alicia Wright, assistant director of Residence Services at the University of Calgary, said only high-level staff can access the files, but their residences are moving away from using the comment system.

"You'll expect to find it less and less," she said.

After Canadian University Press' inquiries, Wright said the residence handbook would be amended to tell students comments could be made. "We're changing our system," she said. "It will be in the handbook next year."

2004
2005
ATHLETICS



**BEARS HOCKEY
LETHBRIDGE**
Friday 7:30 p.m.
Saturday 7:30 p.m.
Clare Drake Arena

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CALGARY**
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Saturday 7:00 p.m.
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For event info: www.bears.ualberta.ca • 492 BEAR

OPINION

opinion@gateway.alberta.ca • Thursday, 2 December, 2004

The Edmonton Journal is slowly slipping

I'VE ALWAYS THOUGHT that Edmonton has always been a bit lucky. Considering, for example, that we're generally a hockey-mad town of less than a million people, it's pretty remarkable that our theatre scene is as strong as it is. Considering we're one of the northernmost large cities in the world, it's almost inconceivable that we have such a beautiful river valley.

One of the other ways we've always been spoiled has been with the quality of local media. The Edmonton Sun notwithstanding, Edmonton has, for a long time, been blessed with an abundance of quality media outlets, from CFRN and ITV—no, not Global—on television, to a Pulitzer Prize-winning major daily and two alternative weekly newspapers. All things considered, not bad for a medium-sized burg in the middle of essentially nowhere.

But lately I haven't felt so lucky on the media end of things, and it's mostly because Edmonton's flagship media source, that same Pulitzer-winning *Edmonton Journal*, hasn't been living up to its own high standards lately.

Look: the *Journal* was never exactly the greatest paper in North America, but there was a time when you could stack it up against pretty much any other major city's daily paper and feel pretty proud—we had ourselves a balanced, and above all intelligent, paper that produced some of Canada's top newspaper people, from editorial cartoonist Edd Ullsachak in the 1970s to sports writer Cam Cole nowadays. But, well, lately it just isn't the same.

Their recent changes to the front page—the addition of large, bold, dare I say Sun-esque headlines, among other things—seem to be an attempt at playing to the broadest audience possible; or, put another way, to the lowest common denominator. While I can certainly understand that newspapers are a business, and certain concessions have to be made to getting the most readers you possibly can, other papers manage to be successful without pandering—the *Globe and Mail*, for example, to say nothing of the fact that the *Journal* did it for many years as well.

Of course, there are other things that, subtly and slowly, mind you, are taking away from what was once a pretty great publication. The addition of the desperately-trying-to-be-“cool” *ed* magazine a few years back comes to mind, but the entertainment section is another example. Likely through no direct fault of the *Journal*'s, to be fair, a stable of talented and interesting writers has slowly been replaced by nationally syndicated wire copy from writers in Vancouver or Toronto. Nothing against those people, of course, but if I wanted to read what a Toronto writer thought of a movie, I would look it up online—when I read an Edmonton paper, I'd like an Edmonton viewpoint.

It's disappointing more than anything: what was once a fine example of quality journalism is slowly slipping into something, well, mediocre. Of course, maybe I'm just used to getting more than I should be expecting.

DAVID BERRY
Opinion Editor

Pearson was robbed

LAST MONDAY, TOMMY DOUGLAS was officially crowned the “Greatest Canadian” in the finale of CBC's much-hyped TV show. What a joke. Douglas was a good guy, but his major achievement, founding Medicare, pales in comparison to the work of our finest prime minister and finest person, Lester B. Pearson.

Not only was Pearson the one who implemented Medicare on a national level, it was his government that instituted bilingualism, and he led the drive to make Canada's flag the Maple Leaf—essentially, he shaped how we define ourselves as Canadians. Oh, and he also won a Nobel Peace Prize for creating the concept of a UN peacekeeping force, and served as president of the United Nations General Assembly. But, you know, coming up with Medicare on the provincial level is big, too.

DANIEL KASZOR
Production Editor

LETTERS

Correcting a fact

Regarding “International tuition hike makes sense,” (30 November) by Ross Prusakowski, please note that there is an error with regards to the proposed international tuition increase.

The 235 per cent is over and above the tuition increase faced by all students on campus; international students are subject to both the 235 per cent hike and the “regular” tuition increase.

MICHAEL HORJER
Executive Communications Officer
Students' Union

Prusakowski doesn't understand int'l student situation

As an international student here at the University of Alberta, I have a few comments to make about Mr. Prusakowski's article on the proposed tuition hike for international students (“International tuition hike makes sense,” 30 November).

Ross' math about tuition and the costs of education do have some sense in them, but that's just quoting fact. His own opinions are grossly misinformed. He needs to realize that most international students do have a mind to stay in Canada for a few years after four years of education, but for that they need a work permit, and for that they need a job. Most Canadian employers are very reluctant to offer jobs to just-out-of-university international students, hence we have no choice but to go back home, or to greater pastures such as the US. For permanent residence, we need to stay in Canada for a duration of a few years, but without a job we obviously have no incentive to.

Secondly, despite the fact that we do not contribute to the economy after our education is over, we contribute greatly to the Canadian GDP during the four years of our stay, thanks to our countless purchases of various goods and services which we pay for by converting our home currencies into the Canadian dollar.

And lastly, my friend, internationally the U of A portrays itself as one of the cheapest and best universities available to international students in Canada. This was a major factor that encouraged me, and I'm sure many other international students, to attend the U of A. By increasing our tuition a huge amount at once, the university is backtracking on its claims made to us when we were looking at prospective universities.

If the University of Alberta wants to keep up the image of “Where the world meets,” then increasing tuition drastically without warning or grandfathering makes no sense, despite what Ross Prusakowski might have read or heard.

AMIRFANSHU PANDEY
Science 1

Peppin misses the context of the Bible

While I agree with the majority of Tim Peppin's article (“Don't call yourself a Christian—you're not,” 25 November), I think it's important



to look at the context in which his selection of Biblical concepts was written.

The command is given to worship the Lord your God, and serve him only (Deut. 6:13, Matt. 4:10). When Jesus told a rich man to sell his possessions and give to the poor, it was to reinforce the above command.

You cannot serve both God and money (Matt. 6:24, Luke 16:13). This does not mean that one cannot enjoy the blessings that one has. The apostle Paul wrote that the rich are not to be arrogant nor to put their hope in wealth, which is so uncertain, but to put their hope in God, who richly provides us with everything for our enjoyment. They are to do good, to be rich in good deeds, and to be generous and willing to share (1 Tim. 6:17-18). What one does with one's wealth and how one prioritizes are the issues. Wealth in itself is not evil; the love of money is (1 Tim. 6:10).

Regarding families, Jesus said he would bring divisions among them (Matt. 10:35-37). People may choose to become Christians, whereas their families might not. Regardless, they are still required to take care of their families (1 Tim. 5:3, 8). The point is that serving God comes first—before family, money or whatever.

I am uncertain about where Mr. Peppin finds that one is not to have an education. Paul commended the Bereans for examining the Scriptures every day to see if what he said was true (Acts 17:11). “All Scripture is God-breathed and is useful for teaching, rebuking, correcting and training in righteousness” (2 Tim. 3:16). Jesus said “If you love me, you will obey what I command” (John 14:15). In order to obey those commands, one must learn what they are. In the same manner that the front page of the *Gateway* invited people to read Mr. Peppin's entire article before writing, I write him to do the same with God's word.

KRISTIN ANDERSON
Sociology IV

Peppin provided 'intellectual stimulation'

I just wanted to say thanks to Tim Peppin for the article (“Don't call yourself a Christian—you're not,” 25 November); it actually reads like a couple of talks I heard from a social justice/anti-consumerism Christian socialist man named John Smith (the talks were at Greenbelt, for any interested parties), especially the reference to Jean Van Leeuwen.

I can only say I agree, except that I feel that I would say that once folk have realized the need to be in total service without these things, they do well to learn to live in total service with these things—for example, with houses whose doors are open to those who would like to join, who work to give it all away and remain content to be like job and when they lose it all to be willing to stand back and say, “Okay, God was with me and he still is. Praise God.”

But that said, of all that I have read in the past six months, I can say that Tim Peppin's in characteristically *Gateway* comic exaggeration of the need for Christians to get serious about giving up everything as the default, and “having” being the exception and the gift. I only hope that it wasn't so severe as to be merely preaching to the converted.

As Karl Marx said, “Philosophers to date have only interpreted the world in various ways—the point is to change it.”

I trust you will provide intellectual stimulation for students at the U of A for many years to come.

PETER MACKENZIE
Alumnus 2003

Gateway needs more Pandas coverage

As a concerned fan, I'm writing to express how disappointed I am with the *Gateway* and University Athletics. The Pandas hockey team had recently kicked ass in Vancouver,

but who would know? Definitely not any University of Alberta students, unless they pay extremely close attention to the team, as I do.

They outshot UBC 99–22 and outscored the team 14–0. In my opinion, that is very impressive and deserves attention. A five-line article is not going to cut it. This team is known for winning, and many people claim that it is a fact that the Pandas hockey team always wins. So find new stories and find creative ways to promote the team. I have not yet seen a team with the record that the Pandas hockey team has. I think that the team deserves credit by acknowledging their accomplishments.

Speaking of accomplishment, did anyone know that Pandas hockey has a national-team member? Probably not. Delaney Collins-Pye just represented Canada in our most prominent sport. She recently returned from the Four Nations Cup, and by the way, the reason I knew that she went is because I overheard in class when she told the prof she would be away for a week. Why is our University not using this as a front-page article? After all, she's the only CPlayer on the national team. What is the problem and who is to blame for this lack of attention? I have had the opportunity to attend other universities, and I can tell you this would not be overlooked anywhere else. Somebody needs to give their head a shake.

JOSH PAKAH
Phys Ed IV

Letters should be e-mailed to opinion@gateway.alberta.ca.

The *Gateway* reserves the right to edit letters for length and clarity, and to refuse publication of any letter it deems racist, sexist, libelous, or otherwise hateful in nature.

Letters to the editor should be no longer than 350 words, and should include the name, student identification number, program, and year of study of the author. Anonymous letters will not be considered.

GATEWAY OPINION

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Surely there are better words in the English language than 'mother'



DERREK GREENINSKI

Behold, children: the beauty of the English language. Isn't it something, twinkling out there in the waning 3pm dusk of an Edmonton winter? Although there are many stirring beauties in this crazy world, from the timeless power of a mountain range to the serenity of the limitless sea, I think I can reasonably state, without hyperbole, that English is also pretty good.

And apparently I'm not the only one who feels so strongly. Recently, the British Council, in conjunction with the Hopelessly Subjective Ranking Federation (HSRF), conducted a study to find the 70 most beautiful words in the English language.

Academics from more than 40 countries, along with roughly 35 000 probably illiterate online respondents, registered votes in the pursuit of an undisputed champion. The top ten included such favourites as "passion," "love" and "eternity," along with "freedom" and "liberty" just to make sure that nobody ever forgets that the US rules. But, just as in any marriage, there can be only one winner: in this case, it's "mother."

Mother. Doesn't it just roll off your tongue with a delight that would leave

"Only once we dive well into the pack do we find words that are inherently interesting, like 'smithereens,' or 'hippopotamus,' but since you won't find either of those in a Hallmark greeting card—particularly the latter, I'm guessing—they're stuck bringing up the rear alongside such crap as 'gum' and 'it.'"

Sigmund Freud salivating like a dog if he wasn't remarkably dead? Wait, it doesn't? Perhaps that's because this study is a hilariously stupid exercise that is no more valuable than an exhaustive search to find the World's Fastest Blender. In addition to the blindingly obvious potential for bias in research of this type, all it does is draw attention to the overall dullness of modern society when it comes to language.

Despite the fact that the entire list is as schlock-heavy as high-school poetry, it's also typically uncreative. Hands up: who is surprised that damned near every one of these has a romantic connotation? Only once we dive well into the pack do we find words that are inherently interesting, like "smithereens," or "hippopotamus," but since you won't find either of those in a Hallmark greeting card—particularly the latter, I'm guessing—they're stuck bringing up the rear alongside such crap as "gum" and "it." I wish I were kidding about those last two.

So, I guess this is the evolution of the language. Most of the civilized world has developed an attention span that is shorter than *The Big Book of Jamaican Military Conquests*, so it should come as no surprise that the

most beautiful words are also probably the first ones that slammed into the skulls of the respondents.

Realistically, though, it's the way things have to be. In this world of quickie divorces and instant global communication, there's no time to get all flowery. If Shakespeare were alive today, that poor son of a bitch wouldn't stand a chance in the e-mail universe, what with his heavy use of polysyllabic terms and, you know, punctuation. Make no mistake: there are still all kinds of innovative literature being churned out of bachelor suites around the world, but it's the type of thing one has to search for instead of having it fall into one's lap.

But I guess it's like anything else where quantity comes before quality. They don't build cars like they used to, they don't make movies like they used to, and they damned sure don't write like they used to. Is it progress, or just another sign that the world is slanted toward the lowest common denominator so that absolutely everyone can feel important without having to do anything to improve? I just don't know, but I do know this—my blender could take your blender any time, any place.

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'Minority mentality' only hurting ethnic groups in the long run



RAMÍN
OSTAD

As a man from Iran, I guess it would seem sort of partial if I said it's really difficult to be part of a minority. That's an understandable view of my opinion, since I couldn't even get on a plane in Denver without people glaring at me or staring at my shoes to see if there was a wire in the back. It's increasingly difficult though, being the new "black." Or is it the new "Hispanic"? Actually, it's more like the new "Soviet," since they used to be the terrorists in all of Harrison Ford's movies.

The racial phobias of society notwithstanding, it isn't an easy task for a child of any visible minority to grow up without being aware of the obvious stigma placed on his or her kind. The telling signs are everywhere: from the news and television to the corporate and academic worlds, parts of society are structured in ways that instill what I call "the minority mentality" in people at a very early age. The widespread knowledge of the treatment of minorities causes some of them to become complacent underachievers; why should they try their best if they aren't going to get anywhere?

There is, however, a much bigger problem for minorities, one that amplifies this mentality to a greater

"Organizations like the League of United Latin American Citizens (LULAC), the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP), and many others like them, have always fought their battles—most of them asinine—in an aggressively defensive manner."

degree. Organizations like the League of United Latin American Citizens (LULAC), the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP), and many others like them, have always fought their battles—most of them asinine—in an aggressively defensive manner. Years ago, when Dinky, the Chihuahua with a Taco Bell fetish, made the phrase "Here lizard, lizard, lizard!" the butt of many sexual innuendos, members of LULAC went into an uproar. While I half expected them to complain more about the small number of Hispanic people actually employed there, they instead had Gabriel Cazares, president of one of their chapters in Clearwater, call it "... a hate crime that leads to the type of immigrant bashing that Hispanics are up against." A hate crime? Really? I guess that makes Godzilla a bigot.

Then, of course, there was the famous condemnation of Bill Cosby by the NAACP in May of this year after a speech he made at an event commemorating the 50th anniversary of the Supreme Court decision in Brown versus the Board of Education. In the speech, Cosby stated, "... the lower economic people are not holding up their end of this deal. ... They are buying things for kids [like] \$500 sneakers

... and won't spend \$200 for 'Hooked on Phonics.' They're standing on the corner, and they don't speak English. ... I blamed the kid until I heard the mother talk. Then I heard the father talk." Instead of picking up on Bill's message of illiteracy and ignorance—and completely ignoring the obvious concern Cosby has shown over the years about the image and welfare of blacks in America—the NAACP joined the lowest common denominator by noticing that he criticized the black community in a medium that could reach the white community.

Honestly, I am amazed at the hypocrisy and ignorance these groups demonstrate. They should be telling their people to get themselves and their children educated. They should be making sure that, eventually, there will be many members of visible minorities who are qualified for high-level positions in all industries that promoting someone simply because they're a white male won't be possible anymore. We can't blame it all on the white man either. We have to have humility, to see the flaws in ourselves, or we as a people will never be able to improve. Until we do, it won't be just us Middle Easterners who are considered good little Soviets.

Prescription drug problem overblown



IRIS
TSE

Let's do some math: a prescription of Nexium, the most popular prescription drug to combat stomach acid, currently costs about \$90 per prescription in Canada. The exact same prescription will cost you \$120US across the border. Now, throw in the fact that Nexium should be taken daily, and that a prescription will most likely last a month, and that \$30 difference can really add up. Gasted, you're not going to have that nasty acid-reflux problem. But this kind of price difference is prominent in other drugs such as Lipitor, the most popular anti-cholesterol drug, and Celebrex, the most popular drug for arthritis. With prices like these, you don't have to be the most pernicious senior to know that you're saving a substantial amount of money by buying your drugs in Canada. No wonder Americans are coming to Canada on drug-buying bus trips to fill their prescriptions.

But, as these tours become more popular and more frequent, one has to question if the Canadian healthcare system can really sustain these extra people. Anybody who has taken an Economics 101 course will remember Adam Smith and his invisible hand. The premise is simple: a lowering of price will cause an increase in demand, hence the busloads of seniors. But the other side of this equation is that the lowering of price will also cause a

decrease of supply. Currently, the only reason our drugs are so cheap is because the government forced the prices on pharmaceutical companies. Chances are the big-name pharmaceuticals will throw big hissy fits if they have to continue selling their most profitable drugs at discount prices. And knowing how influential those pharmaceutical lobby groups can be, it's likely they will push for increases in drug prices into a range that reflects the current voracious demand. And that can only mean increasing prices for Canadians.

In addition, the majority of these so-called "blockbuster" drugs are only blockbusters because of the effective PR machinery run by the pharmaceutical companies. ... This entire "drug crisis" is more overblown than people think.

Despite the importance of this issue, governments on both sides of the border are conspicuously ambiguous. While Canadian Health Minister Ujjal Dosanjh recently stated that "Canada cannot be the drugstore of United States," Paul Martin remained nebulous, showing neither consent nor contempt over Dosanjh's comment or the export of prescription drugs. George W. Bush was characteristically

vocal, but his argument didn't hold up when he said, "When a drug comes in from Canada, I want to make sure it cures you and doesn't kill you." While this is a valid argument that could work for those acquiring their drugs from so-called "Canadian" Internet pharmacies that are later found to be Mexican companies masquerading as Canadian, it still doesn't account for the thousands of people making personal treks across the border to buy their share of Lipitor from Canadian pharmacies.

However, importing drugs from Canada is only a short-term solution to a short-term problem. The reason US citizens pay so much is because those drugs are still under patent protection. But once the patent expires, generic drugs from the US are actually cheaper than generic drugs from Canada. In fact, their generic drugs are cheaper than anywhere in the world, thanks to free-market competition and Adam Smith's invisible hand. So, in the long run, everything is equal. In addition, the majority of these so-called "blockbuster" drugs are only blockbusters because of the effective PR machinery run by the pharmaceutical companies. Most often, similar drugs that are already off-patent will provide the exact same result at a much lower cost. This entire "drug crisis" is more overblown than people think.

While it's about damn time for both governments to take up a clear position on this ongoing drug debate, it's also necessary for them to explain the situation clearly. There really is no need for busloads of seniors to come up to Canada, stock up on prescription drugs, and subsequently crash our healthcare system.

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GATEWAY OPINION

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Society is slowly losing its humanity



CHAD
BARISCH

would almost certainly be branded a socialist or communist, but worse yet in this perpetually capitalistic society, I would be viewed as someone who doesn't believe money is the most important thing in this world.

Nevertheless, this begs the question: why is it so appalling that we would care more about people as ends in themselves than making the bottom line grow incrementally? Likewise, how is it that some people can surreptitiously use a human being as a means to an end, and then proceed with their daily routine as if everything was fine? Surely this can't be a consensus view.

Nevertheless, it is clear that the current manifestation of capitalism is not working in a universally humanistic manner.

The ruggedly individualistic and capitalistic culture of profit that we so highly value is slowly killing us. More to the point, North Americans experience the highest rates of cancer in the world. This speaks volumes about the way we conduct business in our "archetypal" society we like to think of as a paradigm for the world. Perhaps we're stricken with the disease of the affluent. Although a study examining the relationship between cancer rates and capitalism would be extremely difficult and controversial to conduct, and nearly impossible to conclusively prove, I wouldn't be shocked if a strong correlation was found.

However, before some self-righteous person who thinks they have the corner on "economic law" gets their Old Navy boxer-briefs in a wad, let me make one thing clear: this doesn't mean that I believe capitalism directly causes cancer nor that I advocate a blanket adoption of socialism. The market does have its place. Nevertheless, it is clear that the current manifestation of capitalism is not working in a universally humanistic manner.

Canadians accept a certain level of government-instituted humanism simply by our residence in this country. Our healthcare and social-welfare systems are evidence that we, as a collective, believe that people are entitled to certain inalienable rights. However, with an ever-increasing number of people in Canada who see America as an unbridled model for how society should work, I wouldn't discount the possibility of seeing fully privatized Medicare or social security implemented in the foreseeable future, both of which would breed conditions ripe for the economic exploitation of vast numbers of people who have to have lower incomes.

Despite these dire predictions, please don't cease your holiday traditions of slipping eggnog and buying presents for loved ones. However, regardless of your religion, ethnicity or stance on capitalism, bear in mind there are those who don't have what you have. So while you're strolling merrily down the seemingly endless halls of capitalist wonder, make an effort to view this season in light of the humanism it was originally intended to bring. Or, at the very least, show your human side and do something nice for someone who hasn't necessarily done something for you lately.

As per Hallmark's calendar, the season of giving is upon us. Jingle bells are ringing, sleigh bells are jingling and other clichés are singing. Yet in this hectic, get-the-hell-out-of-my-way time of the year, an increasing number of us are failing to give due respect to our fellow human beings.

Society's collective loss of humanism has been on a disturbingly steep spiral towards extinction lately, and it has me rethinking why we value our "civilized world" so much.

Last week, before the foregone conclusion that was the provincial election, I was sitting around with some business- and engineering-student friends discussing the issues. The consensus that many of them had arrived at was that they were going to vote for the party that best represented their individual interests. Unfortunately, this meant Progressive Conservative. When I questioned my predominantly affluent friends as to why they wouldn't consider other so-called "peripheral" issues such as homelessness, the infamous and under-funded Assured Income for the Severely Handicapped (AISH) and accessibility of postsecondary education, their collective response was unsettling: "What have they done for me lately?"

At that point, it was almost futile to get into a discussion with them about universal humanism and the notion that all people matter. Not because I

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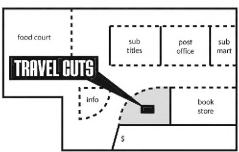
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Sometimes stereotypes do come true



ROSS
MOROZ

Our vernacular is full of hilarious but somewhat politically incorrect aphorisms. "Mexican standoff." "Chinese fire drill." And I suppose, as of last week, "Ukrainian election." Without rehearsing the gory details of the last month of Ukrainian political life, the fact is that a quarter of a million Ukrainians are apparently stubborn enough to risk death by hypothermia to shut down their capital (and economy) to protest a phony election, while an entire region of the country is dumb enough to talk about secession in support of it.

Hmm. Stubborn, and kind of dumb. Sounds, well, kind of Ukrainian. Let me explain: as a Canadian of Ukrainian descent, I know quite a few cantankerous, irrational Ukrainians; I call them "my family." Now, of course, one could argue that these traits are not pan-ethnic; perhaps my family is just a bunch of pig-headed, misguided perog-ers who coincidentally happen to be Ukrainian. Maybe, but a rigged election and any number of

Ukrainian jokes—like the one about the Ukrainian guy who locked his keys in his car and spent all afternoon trying to get his family out—indicate otherwise.

Let me explain: as a Canadian of Ukrainian descent, I know quite a few cantankerous, irrational Ukrainians; I call them "my family."

This is by no means an attack on the Ukrainian Diaspora's collective integrity as a whole—all of the Ukrainians I know are passionate, joyful people with a tremendous work ethic, admirable dedication to family and surprisingly progressive values including environmentalism and social justice. But as the stereotype points out, they can be a little, um, hard-headed. And, as politically incorrect as it is to say so, I humbly submit that perhaps, in more cases than we like to acknowledge, stereotypes might not be so far off.

Think about it: university students are ranked by the idea that they're a bunch of pie-in-the-sky, unreformed Trotskyite pinks. However,

when members of the campus wing of an ostensibly mainstream political party—I won't mention them by name, but suffice it to say that their philosophy is basically "No one Dies Poor"—distribute Marxist propaganda like it's Archie comics, such claims are difficult to refute. Similarly, while I would never insinuate that an individual's choice of sexual partner has anything to do with their vocational inclinations, I have observed that I tend to be more likely to run into a heterosexual while getting transmission work done or buying a hammer than I am while shopping for khakis or getting a haircut.

I should probably stop before I insult anyone else. The point, if I have one, is that different groups of people almost always get extremely upset when any type of blanket characteristic is applied to them. And they should—generalizations are lazy, inaccurate and hurtful. But, just as every piece of gossip has a shred of truth in it, every overblown stereotype had to come from somewhere, and I pre-emptively urge my Ukrainian friends to take with a grain of salt any good-natured jabs at their national character that may result from their less-than-stellar democratic system. Now, I should run before an angry mob of Ukrainians find me and fit me with a Sicilian necktie.

Christians still faced with unfair stereotypes



JUSTIN
ENNS

The Christian is the new seal clubber. Not in terms of the person behind the word, but the stigma attached to the word. In this wonderful age of acceptance and non-discrimination, we now use terms such as "physically challenged" and "cosmetically different" rather than their archaic counterparts, which I'm not allowed to divulge.

The aforementioned can be proud of who they are, and well they should be. And now that they have politically correct terms with which to associate, the attractive, white, middle-class man will respect them. That is, until he attaches a stigma to the new term, in which case they'll change the term again—no big deal.

Seal clubbers, though, don't have that luxury. No one has coined the phrase "seal spins-fren" or "fisher-men." And no one should. Clubbers deserve a stigma—Christians, on the other hand, don't.

It's almost getting to the point where Christians need a new name so they aren't the brunt of so much discrimination. It's not that they, or dare I say we, are ashamed of what we believe. It's the negative preconceptions people associate with that blacklisted religion that make them reluctant to introduce themselves as Christians. It's the prejudice they feel when they say Jesus is their homeboy, and actually mean it, that makes them cower in a corner like the village idiot.

Contrary to the beliefs of academics, Christians are literate and do actually read. However, when asked who my favourite author was, I was afraid to say CS Lewis, and not because people think that he only wrote children's books. Instead, I claimed John Fowles, the atheist existentialist author, as my favourite. Since when has atheism been a safer "religion" to align your-

"It's the negative preconceptions people associate with that blacklisted religion that make them reluctant to introduce themselves as Christians. It's the prejudice they feel when they say Jesus is their homeboy, and actually mean it, that makes them cower in a corner like the village idiot."

self with? From the conversations I've had, it's since people started getting in a huff about the witch trials.

Apparently a 350-year-old, shall I say, misunderstanding, is grounds to start burning Christians at the stake. Or perhaps it was the persecution of Galileo when he claimed the Earth orbited the sun. I admit the 17th century had some crazy, unfortunate times, but come on: it's no longer the 17th century.

Maybe it's the preachy, hypocritical Christians some people associate us with that causes the prejudice. The religious fanatic comes to them with an air of superiority and pities them for being ignorant of the real world. In regards to that objection, I agree. We are often hypocritical. But please understand where we're coming from.

Christians believe that individuals are more than mere mortals. Nations, cultures, arts, civilizations—these

are mortal. All well-meaning Bible thumpers want to do is help "unbelievers" realize their immortality.

It's like a man who has discovered the cure for cancer: he tells everyone he sees about it, but no one listens. So he keeps trying to give away this miraculous remedy, meanwhile getting pushed down and beaten up, until finally someone accepts it. He's so happy he has a new friend who won't die from cancer, but he doesn't stop—after a moment's rejoicing, he gets back on the street until everyone knows that there is a better way to live. I understand that not everybody wants a cure for cancer, but I can also appreciate the tenacity of those Christians who society has not beaten into submission.

All this is to say don't judge us and don't put us in a 17th-century box. After all, Christians are supposed to be the judgemental ones.

Dave Alexander's TOP TEN

Facts about the human body

- Shivering is nature's way of telling you that you're scared of a ghost, or a monster.
- Contrary to popular belief, our closest cousins are not actually chimpanzees, but other humans born to our aunts and uncles.
- Wearing gold chains over an undershirt will stimulate the growth of thick, dark chest hair.
- The body only requires oxygen when it's alive.
- The vagina dilates twice during the miracle of birth: once to allow the baby to be born, and once so the stork can crawl in and leave it there.
- Of all the muscles in the body, the tongue is the one most commonly used by hitchhikers to pay truckers for rides.
- Just over 0.5 per cent of the brain is used for thinking about what percentage of the brain is used to think about a certain thing.
- Kidney stones are commonly caused by shoving stones through the end of the penis and up into the kidneys.
- The pancreas was invented in 1874 by Dr Reginald Pancreas.
- Farting is actually caused by the brave little tubgoats of the lower intestine.

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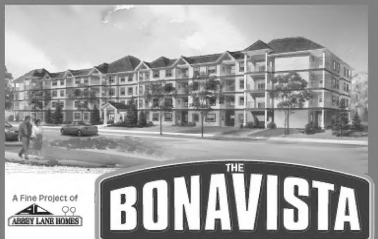
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GATEWAY OPINION

Carpet bombing your beliefs twice a week since 1910

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The exact date that the 2004 T2202A will be available on Bear Tracks will be advertised on the Office Registrar and Student Awards website at www.registrar.ualberta.ca.

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Note: when you file your tax return it is not necessary to submit the printed form. However, if you require the printed form you can download it from Bear Tracks and print it.

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Grand Total	\$3,328,870.69

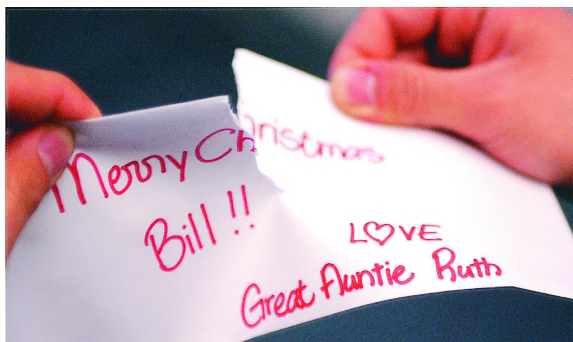


PHOTO ILLUSTRATION: IRIS TSILANE BROWN, MIKE LIU AND MATT FREEMAN

THANKS FOR NOTHING Wow, a gift that's both impersonal and impractical!

Gift certificates are the worst presents ever



PHILIP HEAD

I would like to think that my immediate family is relatively intelligent. However, every Christmas at least one of them will prove to me that the gift they most require is that of common sense. You see, every year I seem to receive at least one gift certificate from someone.

Gift certificates are the gift of choice for those who feel obligated to give a gift to someone but who don't know the person well enough to actually know what they enjoy. This is particularly common with distant relatives who, although they may not have seen you for years and have no knowledge of your desires beyond a vague sense of "music" or "clothes," feel duty-bound to spend money on you out of a sense of family or Christmas spirit.

Now here's a crazy idea: maybe instead of sending your third cousin or niece or whoever a piece of paper redeemable at some random store, make a point to visit them over the holidays, or even send them a letter or call them on the phone. This way,

you can actually get to know your relations and develop relationships with them. Which do you think a person will treasure more in the years to come: a long-forgotten CD, or a friend?

Gifts of money have always seemed hollow, but at least cash is somewhat practical. Gift certificates, though, manage to possess the same lack of a personal touch as cash with none of its benefits.

The litany of negative aspects to gift certificates is mind-boggling. Certificates can only be used at one store, preventing you from shopping around to obtain lower prices or a better selection. What happens if you were to get a \$5 certificate from three different people for three different music stores? Since you can't combine the certificates you are forced to buy things from three different stores, even if you only wanted one item. Gift certificates also expire, meaning that your shopping schedule is predetermined, and should that window for shopping pass, the only one getting a present is the company.

Certificates are also a waste of resources. Unlike money, which is continually circulated, gift certificates are only used once, resulting in tons of little plastic cards and pieces of paper ending up in landfills. Ever wonder how companies can make money on certificates when those fancy cards

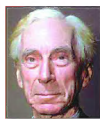
must have some manufacturing cost associated with them? Perhaps the answer lies in the fact that many stores no longer give change from purchases made with certificates. Thus, in order to get the full value of your gift, you must purchase an item which costs more than the value of the certificate, with the difference coming out of your pocket.

If you're really afraid that the blouse you're getting for cousin Sarah might be too small or the wrong colour, just keep the receipt and exchange it later. Unlike other unwanted items, you often can't get a refund on gift certificates, plus people will know exactly how much you spent on the gift. If you're afraid to spend money through the mail for fear of theft, take heart, as there is this wonderful invention known as the personal cheque which is not only secure, but can be deposited directly into a bank account.

The only people who could possibly benefit from a gift certificate are the miserly. If you have a relative who never spends money on themselves, using a gift certificate can force them to pamper themselves. However, rather than giving misers a certificate and getting them to buy themselves something, you could go shopping with them, allowing you to actually spend time with them.

And so to all my relatives out there, I am not certifiable.

Militant vegans are ruining it for the rest of them



PATRICK ROSS

corner certainly must require some degree of fortitude. But that's all it is: a lifestyle choice.

This billboard is an example of the tactics that certain vegans use to promote their beliefs—or to force them on other people. It's a shame, because they certainly hurt the respectability and credibility of their fellow vegans.

Let's call them "militant-protest vegans." They're the same kind of people who show up to a rally in support of Canadian cattlemen with a sign that reads "I hate Alberta beef" and then get all emotional when you eat a bacon double cheeseburger in front of them. Love that sweet, sweet bacon.

It's a ludicrous statement that basically amounts to saying, "Respect my beliefs while I summarily disrespect yours." Or, in the case of beef-rafal protesters, attack your ability to make a living—wow, that's all class.

But maybe more troublesome than all of this is the laughability of these people. Consider this: the couple also on the billboard—vegans, one assumes—are remarkably good looking. They're both dressed in all white, and they both look exceedingly regal

and artistic. And well they should: they're sensitive! There's apparently an element of vegans who would have us believe that they're prettier, more compassionate and more intelligent than many of us lowly non-vegans, and on top of all this, they're less likely to die of cancer. Playing off of a public fear of a malignant disease in order to promote ethical and moral beliefs is really classy, too, by the way.

For all the well-intentioned, respectable vegans, of which there are many, I sympathize. Militant vegans have seemingly become the self-appointed spokespeople of veganism. It really is a shame that so many good and honest people—like most vegans, one assumes—are seemingly being overshadowed by a few who are little other than loud, smug and obnoxiously self-righteous.

A personal fantasy of mine is to take some of these militant vegans to Africa, convince them to teach teachers to eat soy beans and tofu, then just sit back with a big bag of—buttered—popcorn and watch the fun unfold.

Just don't forget to tell mister tiger that meat causes cancer.

Klein knows how to be a Canadian leader



JARED
MILNE

With another provincial election behind us, Ralph Klein has won yet again, albeit with a reduced majority. Whether you like his policies or not, and I certainly don't, you have to respect Klein for his political savvy, and also for doing a relatively good job at the balancing act most political leaders in Canada have to deal with.

Hard as it may be to believe, Klein rejected ideas proposed by people on the far right. Just look at the notion of the Alberta "firewall," which Klein has so far refused to support. That's a proposal made by diehard right-wing Albertans like the Byfields, and Klein wouldn't support it because he knew most of the rest of Alberta wouldn't support it. We all notice, of course, the Alberta Alliance and its far-right supporters who "blame Ralph," even as citizens on the left criticize Klein for his policies of spending cuts and privatization.

Being a Canadian political leader offers an interesting challenge: you have to try and appear as a defender of your province, your group, or whatever other entity you claim to lead, while also trying to avoid appearing as if you don't care about the good of the rest of the country or anyone else who might have a stake in what you do.

Given that this is a conservative province, Klein cut the budget, as most of us expected, and we supported him for it. He also continued the Albertan tradition of criticizing

the federal government for supposedly taking too much of Alberta's oil wealth, something he needs to do to keep his base of support in this province. But he also rejected far-right policies that he knew would get him in trouble—the firewall agenda would have created a lot of conflict with an electorate that probably doesn't want it in the first place. Besides, he'd look bad on the national stage, as well; he'd be compared—unfavorably—with the separatist movement in Québec.

Klein handled the act of keeping a broad base of support well, all while defending the interests of the people he represents and avoiding seeming too self-interested and uncaring for the needs of other interested parties and the country as a whole. Of course, he's slipped up in the last little while, and he should be criticized for that. But the job he has to do is common across Canada.

Federalist Québec politicians know

this as well as anyone. If you don't stand up for Québec and its needs, you're accused of being a sellout. But if you don't try and work with the rest of Canada, then you leave yourself open to accusations of only caring about your province. Québecois politicians from Cartier to Laurier to Lesage to Dion have had to do this.

Aboriginal political leaders have to do this as well. They need to stand up and defend the rights of their people, as the people have every right to expect them to. On the other hand, they have to keep in mind the perceptions of non-Natives involved in whatever they're doing.

It's a balancing act, and one Canadian leaders have had to handle since Confederation. Not everyone succeeds—even the best at the game make mistakes—but those who do are usually the ones who have done the best for both the people they represent and Canada as a whole.

world what they really think about the holiday season. And it's a wondrous vision that we can all be proud of.

It isn't about Jesus Christ; it isn't about Hanukkah. Heck, it isn't even about Kwanzaa. It's about celebrating that most holy thing of all: "Come Shop All Ye Faithful!"

Kingsway Garden Mall, where the consumerist congregation can come and pray to the almighty power of profit. Where we can worship waste and gorge ourselves on greed. I think we've finally been shown just how capitalism has killed God. Amen.

SCOTT C. BOURGEOIS

No sack beatings are ever actually administered.

THE BURLAP
SACK

So I was cruising down St. Albert Trail on my way home the other evening, and what I saw made me do a double take right there along the highway. The single most amazing billboard advertisement ever in the history of Christmas. In one sentence, Kingsway Garden Mall encapsulated everything that is wrong with the Christmas holiday: "Come Shop All Ye Faithful!"

Am I the only person who thinks that it's fantastic that Kingsway had the balls to finally drop the pretense? At long last, they've come out of the consumerist closet and shown the

GATEWAY OPINION

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KNOW WHEN

My love affair with poker began with the 1998 movie *Rounders*. I was inexplicably attracted to the challenge the game presented—it looked fun, dangerous and sexy all at once. I wasn't unique, either—the release of the movie coincided with the explosion in popularity that poker has seen recently. Ask around amongst the current generation of poker players and you'd be hard-pressed to find someone who couldn't quote you at least three lines out of the movie.

Of course, my friends and I were underage at the time, so we headed over to the nearest dollar store and promptly bought a hefty number of red, white and blue plastic poker chips. Our high-school sized bankrolls limited our losses to about \$5 a night. This relatively small amount of money didn't discourage us from being ultra-competitive, though—in fact, the primary currency being exchanged during our games was pride.

I began to envelop myself with the theory behind the game. I bought all the poker books I could find, among them, Brunson's *Super System*, Caro's *Book of Tells*, and Sklansky's *The Theory of Poker*. I learned about the mathematics behind each decision, the mentality of the winning player, and ways to optimize profit by randomizing betting patterns. I found online message boards filled with fellow poker enthusiasts, and began discussing my newfound theories with the pros.

All of this wealth of strategy, of course, was going wasted, being used on my friends and the small-time home games that we played. It was still a fun social experience, but I was itching to test out my strategy in a more competitive arena as I patiently awaited my 18th birthday.

THE FIRST TIME

If watching *Rounders* was my first date with poker, then going to the casino for the first time was like finally getting laid. Oddly enough, the first time I found myself sitting down at a real poker table wasn't in a conventional casino—it was at the temporary Klondike Days casino that sets up shop in the Agricola. A group of us had just come from watching a hypnotist, and as my buddies went off to the blackjack table, I put my name on the waiting list for a seat at the \$3-\$6 Hold 'Em table they had running. A few moments later, I had purchased \$120 worth of chips—exactly 20 times the big bet, just like they say to do in the books. I was ready to play.

I had never risked that much money before, and though I had gone over the scenario a thousand times in my head, I still found my fingers trembling as I took a peek at my first cards. Junk. I folded that hand, and probably close to 20

hands after that. The table banter was pleasant enough—there was a healthy mix of young and old players at the table, all of whom seemed to be there to have a good time rather than to win money, which, I'd read, is exactly the type of player to seek out.

Finally, I found myself in a position to play. I got dealt a pair of fives in my two-card hand, and called with them. There were seven or eight other players in the pot with me, and about \$35 in the pot. The flop came, an A-5-2 rainbow, giving me a well-concealed three of a kind, a very powerful hand in poker. My heart felt like it was about to jump through my chest, and all I could picture was a massive pile of chips being pushed in my direction. There was a bet and a few callers, and I called without raising—a textbook example of feigning weakness in the hopes of being able to entice more players to stick around.

If watching *Rounders* was my first date with poker, then going to the casino for the first time was like finally getting laid.

Six players remained to see the turn card—it was a two, which is an absolutely marvelous card to see. It gave me a full house, and also had a good chance of having significantly improved the hands of the other players. My head began to spin with all the possibilities—I could be beaten by someone holding a pair of twos in their hand, or a pair of aces. I ruled it out, and I raised the bet. My hands were shaking so badly I nearly knocked over the clever little pyramid of chips I'd constructed. I'd read that making pyramids out of your chips will intimidate your opponents, so I wanted to keep the structure intact. I must have looked like a ghost, and it's a miracle that none of my opponents were able to pick up on my obvious excitement.

Three players were left for the river card. The remaining five hit the board, giving me four of a kind, the absolute, stone-cold, mortal nuts (ie, the best hand available). In retrospect, my excitement seems quaint and naive, but at the time, it was all I could do not to scream. Immediately, there was a bet and a raise. I re-raised, and when all was said and done, there was a sizable \$150 pot in front of us.

Both players showed twos, giving each of them a full house—inferior to my four of a kind. I revealed my hand in a sheepish, almost apologetic manner. Predictably, the table went into a frenzy over the four of a kind, even though my

full house would have been more than enough to win the hand. I barely even heard the chorus of "nice hand" and "I knew he had it." I was focused on one thing: the win.

BEYOND THE CARD ROOM

That first night at Klondike Days wouldn't be the last time I went to the casino. The more I frequented the casino, the more comfortable I felt at the table. Over time, the novelty of going to the casino wore off. It became just another weekend excursion—only instead of spending copious amounts of money, I was making it. It was still fun, just not as thrilling. After all, a \$3-\$6 table isn't all that difficult to beat, and I was yearning to try something different.

Then one night in the early summer, I decided to try something new. Using my credit card, I could play poker online at any hour of the day, without leaving the comfort of my own home. Moreover, I was able to play multiple tables at once—I could handle as many as three at a time, and had heard stories of players working five or more.

The increased convenience of online poker increased the amount of poker I was playing dramatically—I was putting in hours at an alarming rate. For the first two months of my summer, poker was my primary source of income, and subsequently created quite a conspicuous employment gap on my resumé. I enjoyed being able to wake up when

I pleased and deciding my own hours and schedule. It was ideal—except for the fact that I hated it. The game had become mundane, and all the excitement and danger that had attracted me in the first place had been removed. Instead, it was replaced by a constant grind—I was tirelessly working against the percentage that the online casinos were taking. The online phase of my poker career ended as suddenly as it had started.

KNOW WHEN TO WALK AWAY

Poker remains a hobby for me, and I still occasionally venture over to one of the four local casinos for late-night rendezvous. A lot of people confuse poker with games like blackjack and roulette—games of chance. These games guarantee long-term losses, since the mathematical edge is always in favour of the casino. There is luck to be had in poker, certainly—even the best players in the world can encounter an insurmountable run of bad cards. I maintain, however, that poker has a lot more in common with games like chess and backgammon—games of skill and strategy. The game requires an attractive blend of patience, study and, above all, self-control. As a lifestyle, it's dangerous. As a hobby, it's fulfilling. And as a game, it's beautiful.



TO HOLD 'EM

Feature by CHRIS SAMUEL
Photos by MATTHEW FREHNER

GLOSSARY OF TERMS

Lately, it seems that the world has become enamoured with poker. It's hard to channel surf and not come across a tournament at least once a week. In fact, the main event at the World Series of Poker, far and away the most prestigious poker event in the world, has seen registration go from 512 players in 2000 to over 2500 this year. Events on the famous World Poker Tour are being given prime TV slots, and the growing interest doesn't seem to be slowing down.

In reality, the term "poker" refers to an entire genre of card games, the most popular and widely played of which is Texas Hold 'Em. The game has its own dialect that is virtually incomprehensible to the uninitiated masses. To help cope with the lingo used by card sharks, here's a glossary of some of the more commonly used Texas Hold 'Em terms:

Pot: the collection of all the money that has been wagered, which the players are competing to win.

Rake: the amount that the house will take from the pot, usually five per cent to a maximum of \$5.

House: the establishment where the game is being played, usually the casino.

Blinds: a forced bet made by the first two players to the left of the button. This is used to create the pot.

Button: signifies the player who will make the last betting decision. At the completion of each round, the button will rotate one seat to the left.

Hole cards: the first two cards which are dealt to the players. These cards are kept secret, and may only be used by the player holding them. There is a round of betting after they are dealt.

Flop: the first three community cards, which are dealt simultaneously. There is a round of betting after they are dealt.

Turn: the fourth community card dealt. There is a round of betting after it is dealt.

River: the fifth and final community card dealt. There is a final round of betting after it is dealt, after which a winner is determined.

Community cards: the five cards dealt face-up, which may be used in conjunction with a player's hole cards to make the best possible five-card hand.

\$3-\$6: the most common stakes at which Texas Hold 'Em is played. The first amount refers to the size of the bets during the first two rounds of betting, and the second refers to the size during the final two rounds.

Bet: to make the first wager during a round of betting, which opponents can respond to by either calling, raising, or folding.

Check: to refrain from putting money in the pot, yet remain in competition for the pot. Essentially, a bet of zero. Used only when no bet has yet been made during the current betting round.

Call: to match the amount of the bet made, and remain in competition for the round.

Raise: to increase the amount being wagered. There can be a maximum of three raises in a betting round.

Fold: to release your hole cards and drop out of competition for the current pot.

Showdown: after the final betting round on the river, all remaining players who have not folded compare their hole cards. The player who makes the best five-card hand, using any combination of their two hole cards and the five community cards, will win the pot. In the event of a tie, the pot is divided amongst the players with the best hands.

Nuts: slang for the best possible five-card hand considering the five available community cards.



SPORTS

sports@gateway.ualberta.ca • Thursday, 2 December, 2004

Hoops Bears welcome starting post back from injury



FILE PHOTO: DAN LAZIN

DRIVING The Bears will try to elbow their way into first place this weekend.

Scott Gordon getting back in form as Bears prepare to host Dinos

PAUL OWEN
Sports Writer

About the only good news for the Golden Bears basketball team after splitting a disappointing series against the Lethbridge Pronghorns last weekend is the return of starting post Scott Gordon. After missing five and a half weeks with a dislocated shooting finger, Gordon played sparingly in Lethbridge, wearing a cast on his injured hand, but is feeling no pain.

"It's feeling pretty good. Once I get playing it goes to the back of my mind. It affects my shooting and catching, but it feels good," said Gordon.

Coach Don Horwood expects Gordon to add a little scoring punch to a Bears lineup that has had trouble finding the basket this season; however, it will take a little time for him to adjust to being back in the lineup.

"Scott gives us another potential scoring threat in the post. Once we get enough threats in the post... we get more open shots. It changes the whole dynamic [of our offense]," Horwood said. "We need more scoring and more rebounds from Scott, but I don't think he's 100 per cent comfortable with his

hand and it'll take him a little while to get that feel back. He'll give us more than we're getting from some of our other post players."

While Gordon and the Bears will need some time to fully adjust to his return, his teammates said they're looking forward to him getting back into form.

"We're inconsistent. We don't get out-rebounded, but we get out-rebounded at key times, when the games are close..."

DON HORWOOD,
GOLDEN BEARS HEAD COACH

"It's a bit of an adjustment to have Scott back on the floor this weekend. Guys weren't used to having him out there anymore," said guard Gavin Fedorak. "We want his 20 points and ten boards per game. I think he'll get back there but it'll take him a little longer than he thought to get his touch back."

Gordon had best be quick about getting his touch back, as the Calgary Dinos (4-3) come to town to face the Bears (4-2) tomorrow and Saturday at 7pm in the Main Gym. The Bears

are hoping to play like the team that downed the seventh-ranked Saskatchewan Huskies in Saskatoon in early November, and not the team that handed Lethbridge (1-7) their only win of the season thus far.

"We're inconsistent. We don't get out-rebounded, but we get out-rebounded at key times, when the games are close, and I believe Calgary has a bit of an edge in rebounding," said Horwood. "Our lack of intensity could be a product of fear, so we're afraid to [be aggressive] and reacting instead of taking it to them."

Gordon will try to help address those problems in his first games at home in nearly two months.

"I'm kinda rusty, but I'm going to be working on my shot and bring a lot of boards, pump a lot of energy into the team this weekend," Gordon said.

For a team that has been without two starters in Gordon and injured post Phil Sadol, the Bears are facing a golden opportunity in the star this weekend. A pair of wins would send them to the top of Canada West's Central Division and into a tie for top spot in the conference with the Victoria Vikes (6-2).

"Missing our starting two posts all year and being in a position to be number one in our division—I'd take that," Fedorak said. "With Scott back, we're right where we thought we should be."

Hockey Bears heavy favourites against visiting Pronghorns

MICHAEL KLARY
Sports Writer

Following another four-point weekend, the Golden Bears hockey squad is hoping to feast upon the lowly Lethbridge Pronghorns this weekend at Clare Drake Arena in their last pair of games before the Christmas break.

Halfway through the regular season, the top-ranked Bears, who sit atop the Canada West standings with a record of 13-1-0, have already built up a six-point lead over the second-place Manitoba Bisons (9-3-2), and a whopping 16-point lead over the Calgary Dinos (4-6-2), who sit second in the Mountain Division.

better, and its been a real battle."

If the Bears do put on another offensive show this weekend, the line of right-winger Steve Shrum, centre Brad Tutschek and left-winger Ben Kilgour might be expected to be the stars of the show. In the last four games, the line has combined for an impressive 18 points, including a one-game seven-point performance against Manitoba two weekends ago. Shrum said there's no secret to his line's recent good fortune.

"All three of us are committed to working together and killing off each game and each period," he said. "Just working together I think is the main thing that has contributed to our success so far."

Shrum, who returned from injury after missing the first seven games of the season, was placed with Kilgour and Tutschek three weeks ago in Saskatchewan. However, the line was not an instant success.

"We had a week and half together where we didn't really get things going, but the last couple weekends we're really starting to click and work together as a unit," said Shrum. "We have had some success and we are trying to build on that going into Christmas break against Lethbridge."

Daum said he's not surprised at all by the line's recent success.

"They seem to compliment each other," he said. "They've been very solid, and they should be good offensively if you look at what they bring to the table."

The three players and the rest of the Bears will try to keep up their hot streak against the ice-cold Pronghorns tomorrow and Saturday night. Opening faceoff for both games is 7:30pm at Clare Drake Arena.

Whitecourt's 'first family of wrestling' brings fighting spirit to Alberta squad

ROSS PRIBAKOWSKI
Sports Writer

Anyone who has grown up with siblings has probably experienced the fighting that goes along with being around someone all the time. But while most of us lose the opportunity to regularly smack our siblings as we grow up, Heidi and Anthony Kulak are still afforded the opportunity to engage in some good old-fashioned family scuffling, courtesy of the Golden Bears and Pandas wrestling squad.

However, it's not just the Kulaks who get something out of the deal; the University of Alberta wrestling team has benefited greatly from having Whitecourt, Alberta's "first family of wrestling" represent them. The current crop of Kulaks has amassed an impressive medal haul between them, and when you add in an older brother who previously passed through the Alberta ranks, all of them have captured national championships in their time with the U of A or in Whitecourt.

"In a sense it's sort of like the family sport, our older brother started wrestling and we all just sort of got funneled into it," says Anthony.

"I was getting beat up by my brothers, so I started going out to wrestling so I could defend myself from them," Heidi says with a chuckle. "Then I found that I enjoyed it and just stuck with it and decided to compete in it."

It seems the choice to get into wrestling competitively was a wise one for the Kulaks, who were both undefeated throughout November. According to Alberta head coach Vang Ioannides, the Kulaks' success comes from the pure enjoyment they get out of the sport, their deceptive strength and



MIKE OTTO

FAMILY FEUD Anthony and Heidi Kulak practice against each other.

the competitive nature each possesses when they hit the mat.

"Sometimes they actually wrestle together and those are probably some of the fiercest matches," says Ioannides.

"I was getting beat up by my brothers, so I started going out to wrestling so I could defend myself from them."

PANDAS WRESTLER HEIDI KULAK

"They push each other very hard; their expectations for each other are very high and I think having the two of them together makes both of them better."

"Wrestling against each other is a good stress relief because we get along really well at home," says Heidi. "So if there's ever any tension between us over anything at home we can just come on the mat and deal with it and

then go home and laugh about it."

"I feel like we have the same spirit so that when we're fighting against each other, that comes out and it's like I'm fighting myself, because neither of us will back down," says Anthony. "I know that any point I get on her, it's like the best point I scored, it was a perfect technical point and it was something I really had to fight for because nothing comes easy."

What does come easy for the two is the nature of their relationship beyond the stress of competition. They stress how much they appreciate the fact that they can both compete and live together during such an important part of life.

"I think a lot of people have different relationships with their siblings. You move away and go to school and you don't always go to the same places as your brother or sister," says Heidi. "I think for us it's great to be able to share this time of our lives together and also to be able to share that time on the mat."

"We have to be really careful not to prepare based on what's happened in the past."

ROB DAUM,
GOLDEN BEARS HEAD COACH

This weekend, the Bears will be heavy favourites against the second-last place Pronghorns, who sport a dismal 2-11-1 record. The last time these teams played each other, the Bears won both games handily, outscoring their opponents 18-3. But despite the obvious mismatch, Bears head coach Rob Daum insisted that he's not taking anything for granted.

"We have to be really careful not to prepare based on what's happened in the past," he said. "We have had weekends where we have been really successful against Lethbridge and it's looked easy, and the next time we don't play quite as well and they play much

First-year medical student races to victory at Canadian Finals Rodeo

ELIZABETH VAIL
Sports Writer

Jill Bishop didn't pay her tuition like most other students did. While others may have slaved their summer away by flipping burgers for minimum wage, or applied for scholarships until their eyes bled, or signed over their souls to the Dark Lord in return for badly needed cash, Jill Bishop paid for school by getting on her horse.

She mounted her trusty steed, a quarter-horse by the name of Chick, and participated in the Canadian Professional Rodeo Association Barrel Racing Championship during the Canadian Finals Rodeo that took place in Edmonton between 10 and 14 November.

Barrel racing is a difficult event, where the fastest time earns the most points to eventually claim the prize. Agility is also a crucial factor, as participants attempt to steer their horses as close to the barrels as they can without knocking them over in order to shave precious seconds off their time. In order to gain the advantage, the rider and horse have to cooperate together fully. Bishop says she has no problem cooperating with Chick.

"I'm fairly close to my horse," she reveals. "I think you get kind of attached when you spend a lot of time with them."

She ended up earning the highest score at the CFR—155 points—and was declared the champion. Upon her victory she received a hefty cheque for over \$30 000.

Raised on her family's acreage with a mother who was also a barrel racer,



BARREL RACER U of A medical student and CFR champion Jill Bishop.

a brother who was a bull rider, and a father who was a former steer wrestler, the first-year University of Alberta medical student essentially grew up with the rodeo.

"[I've been barrel racing] pretty much forever," she explains. "I went to my first rodeo when I was three years old. I think I was just around [rodeo] a lot because my family was involved with it, so I just got into it that way."

Still, even at the tender age of 21, she is already a talented veteran of the rodeo circuit, having earned herself two wins at the Calgary Stampede's \$50 000 bonus round. She was also crowned the Ladies Barrel Racing Champion at the 2002 Canadian Champions competition, and is a

past Women's Professional Rodeo Association Rookie of the Year.

While for now she juggles competitions with her university schedule, Bishop already has her priorities straight. She still has to complete her medical education at the University of Alberta, a choice she insists was not influenced by the high risk of bodily injury associated with rodeo events.

"I'll attempt to do both [rodeo and medicine] eventually," she declares, as yet undecided as to what branch of medicine she plans to pursue. "My medical career will probably come first. During residence I probably won't have time for rodeo, but once ... [I have] a little more flexible schedule, then hopefully I'll be able to rodeo more."

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THE STATS PAGE

Women's Hockey

Canada West standings

Team	GP	W	L	T	GF	GA	PTS
Alberta	10	10	0	0	59	9	20
Regina	10	5	4	1	35	28	11
UBC	10	3	5	2	18	38	8
Saskatchewan	10	3	6	1	25	35	7
Manitoba	10	3	6	1	20	35	7
Lethbridge	10	2	5	3	25	37	7

No games scheduled (winter break)

Men's Hockey

Canada West standings

Team	GP	W	L	T	GF	GA	PTS
Alberta	14	13	1	0	65	23	26
Calgary	12	4	6	2	39	33	10
Lethbridge	14	2	11	1	37	81	5
UBC	14	0	10	4	35	68	4

Great Plains Division

Team	GP	W	L	T	GF	GA	PTS
Manitoba	14	9	3	2	56	32	20
Saskatchewan	12	9	2	1	53	31	19
Regina	16	5	9	2	40	47	12

Schedule

Friday	Saturday
Manitoba @ Sask 6pm	Manitoba @ Sask 6pm
Leth @ Alberta 7:30pm	Leth @ Alberta 7:30pm
Calgary @ UBC 8:30pm	Calgary @ UBC 8:30pm

Women's Basketball

Canada West standings

Team	GP	W	L	PF	PA	PTS
Saskatchewan	8	5	3	556	507	10
Calgary	8	5	3	494	477	10
Alberta	8	2	6	510	584	4
Lethbridge	8	2	6	540	597	4

Pacific Division

Team	GP	W	L	PF	PA	PTS
Simon Fraser	8	8	0	615	380	16
UBC	8	5	3	503	439	10
Victoria	8	4	4	452	473	8
Trinity Western	8	1	7	442	573	2

Great Plains Division

Team	GP	W	L	PF	PA	PTS
Winnipeg	8	8	0	598	425	16
Regina	8	4	4	477	483	8
Manitoba	6	2	4	447	472	4
Brandon	6	0	6	238	472	0

Schedule

Friday	Saturday
Man @ Brandon 5:15pm	Man @ Brandon 5:15pm
	Grant MacEwan @ Alberta 5pm (non-conference)

Men's Volleyball

Canada West standings

Team	MP	W	L	GW	GL	PTS
Alberta	10	9	1	29	8	18
Saskatchewan	8	7	1	23	7	14
UBC	8	5	3	19	12	10
TWU	8	5	3	19	14	10
Winnipeg	8	4	4	15	16	8
Manitoba	8	3	5	13	17	6
Calgary	8	1	7	4	22	2
Regina	10	0	10	4	30	0

Schedule

Saturday	Sunday
Winnipeg @ Calgary 8pm	Winnipeg @ Calgary 2pm

Women's Volleyball

Canada West standings

Team	MP	W	L	GW	GL	PTS
UBC	10	10	0	30	4	20
Calgary	10	10	0	30	9	20
Winnipeg	10	8	2	26	11	16
Alberta	10	6	4	23	14	12
Regina	10	6	4	19	14	12
TWU	8	2	6	12	21	4
Manitoba	10	2	8	8	24	4
Simon Fraser	10	0	10	8	30	0
Saskatchewan	10	0	10	1	30	0

No matches scheduled (winter break)

Men's Basketball

Canada West standings

Team	GP	W	L	PF	PA	PTS
Saskatchewan	8	5	3	665	626	10
Alberta	6	4	2	416	426	8
Calgary	6	4	2	467	420	8
Lethbridge	8	1	7	552	641	2

Pacific Division

Team	GP	W	L	PF	PA	PTS
Victoria	8	6	2	588	547	12
UBC	8	5	3	585	517	10
Trinity Western	6	3	3	428	469	6
Simon Fraser	6	0	6	418	468	0

Great Plains Division

Team	GP	W	L	PF	PA	PTS
Brandon	6	4	2	496	457	8
Regina	6	4	2	479	450	8
Manitoba	6	3	3	423	446	6
Winnipeg	6	0	6	466	516	0

Schedule

Thursday	Friday	Saturday
Trinity Western @ SFU 8pm		
	Regina @ Winnipeg 6:30pm	Regina @ Winnipeg 6:30pm
	Calgary @ Alberta 7pm	Calgary @ Alberta 7pm
	Man @ Brandon 7:15pm	Man @ Brandon 7:15pm
	Trinity Western @ SFU 8pm	

SPORTS SHORTS

Women's Basketball

The Pandas are finished their fall term Canada West schedule, but they'll play one more game before the break. Saturday, the Grant MacEwan Griffins will visit the Main Gym for an exhibition match, with opening tipoff at 5pm. The Pandas won an earlier game between the two teams, 63-57 in October. They'll also play at an exhibition tournament in Calgary at the end of the month before resuming conference play in January. Entering the winter break, the Pandas (2-6) are currently in a three-way tie for the eighth and final playoff spot, with the Lethbridge Pronghorns (2-6) and the Manitoba Bisons (2-4). The Bisons, though, will likely pull ahead this week-

end, when they visit the winless Brandon Bobcats (0-6) in the only two games on the Canada West schedule.

Meanwhile, second-year Pandas forward Carly McClellan was named the Canada West female athlete of the week. She scored 29 points in two games against the Pronghorns last weekend as the Pandas earned their first two victories in conference play this season.

Cross-Country

Golden Bears runner Mike Metcalfe was named the men's winner of the Canada West Cross-Country Student Athlete Community Award. Metcalfe was chosen based on athletic and academic performance, as well as community involvement. He was captain of the Golden Bears squad that won bronze at last month's CIS championship in

Guelph, and has also been on the dean's list in every year of his studies at the U of A. He also has extensive coaching and other volunteer experience. Chelsea Wymostok of the Calgary Dinosaurs was the winner on the women's side.

Swimming

The Pandas and Golden Bears will send swimmers to the US Open, which runs today through Sunday in San Antonio, Texas. They're continuing their preparations for the CIS championships, which they'll host 25-27 February.

Wrestling

The Golden Bears and Pandas will travel to Saskatoon this weekend for the Huskie Open at the University of Saskatchewan. Matches run tomorrow and Saturday.

Final Exams!

Fall Term Final Exams are December 11 to 22

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SOCIAL
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MTV Headbanger's Ball
with Cradle of Filth, Arch Enemy, Bleeding Through and Himsa
Shaw Conference Centre
Friday, 3 December at 7pm

With a website featuring excessive use of the word "evil" and plenty of gothic-looking fonts, Cradle of Filth is clearly a dark and angry band. The British extreme metal band, comparable in image and sound to Slipknot, have previously appeared as headliners at Ozzfest and are currently touring in promotion of their latest release *Nymphomaniac*. The album has been described as "the soundtrack to raw sensuality and exhilarative eroticism," and features delightful track titles like "Gilded Cunt" and "Filthy Little Secret."

If you like going to shows that neither your mom nor Jesus would approve of, be at the Shaw Conference Centre tomorrow night to reserve your hot, fiery spot in hell.

The Music

Starfire Room
Wednesday, 8 December at 7pm

If you like The Vines and The Streets, why not add another band starting with "the" to your repertoire? Two years ago a bunch of scrappy British boys released a debut album that sparked critical acclaim and the growth of a solid fan base. The Music, a band all about "optimism, opening your mind, and fighting the cynicism" slathers audiences with mushy feel-good vibes through their foot-tapping tunes. Lately, the band has been performing with names like Modest Mouse, Franz Ferdinand, and Velvet Revolver, but is taking centre stage solo when they stop by the Starfire to shake some enthusiasm into your otherwise stressed-out life.



Thornley with Doctor Cowboys
Wednesday, 8 December at 8pm

Best known for the hit single "So Far So Good," Canadian rock band Thornley hits the city next week to spread the word about his most recent album, *Come Again*.

Frontman Ian Thornley's first big break was as vocalist for the highly acclaimed 90s rock band Big Wreck.

With the breakup of Big Wreck in 2002 came the birth of Thornley's solo project, an endeavour that would facilitate his new band's rise to stardom: they now play venues packed with 5000 screaming fans. If you're one of them, celebrate the end of classes by letting loose at Wednesday's show.

ASIA SZKUDLAREK

Rocks the party that rocks the party-ay

Babies and parents give a crap for Jann

I'll Tell You One Damn Thing, And That's All I Know

Book Reading
with Jann Arden
Greenwoods Bookshope
Tuesday, 7 December at 7pm

TYSON KABAN
Arts & Entertainment Writer

Monday afternoon, Jann Arden was royally pissed off. The usually jovial mood of the Canadian chanteuse had been dampened by the smallest thing—or, if you prefer, person. Her friend's newborn had been crying all day with no end in sight.

"I've been singing him lullabies all day long, but he couldn't give a crap," she says. "Well, actually he did crap, but that's not the point."

The baby might not have given much more than a crap about Arden's famously bittersweet voice (despite the fact, Arden mentions, that he was conceived during one of her romantic tunes), but the rest of the population has responded to her music: the self-deprecating diva has sold over two million records. And the success doesn't stop there: Arden owns a successful hole-in-the-wall diner in her hometown of Calgary (The Arden) and has recently released her second book, *I'll Tell You One Damn Thing, And That's All I Know*.

A collection of journal entries from her website (www.jannarden.com), the book chronicles Arden's self-described "completely normal and boring life." She talks about her cats, poles fun at her parents, and discusses life, love and death with an acerbic wit.

From the title of her book, it seems like Arden is hinting that she knows something the rest of us don't. But she's not fooled by her humour and insight; she's just as clueless as any other bodacious blonde. "The title's just a joke. I might sound insightful and deep, but that's completely unintentional. I really don't know anything," she jokes.

"I ain't no Margaret Atwood, Yann Martel or even Pierre Berton," she says with deadpan delivery.



ery. "This is a simple book that accentuates the ordinary and hopefully makes it seem interesting, even if I'm just talking about the weather, fat ankles or the colour of my hair."

Arden has high hopes for this book. Not in terms of sales, but she hopes her book manages to dethrone Archie comics as the most popular bathroom reading material. "It's a great bathroom book. It has no real continuity so you can read a bit, put it down and when you come back to it, there's no confusion about where you left off," she says. "Read a couple of pages each time you sit down and you'll be done it in about a week—that is, if you're regular."

And Arden doesn't mind if you read it for free next time you're in Chapters. In fact, she encourages it.

Mind you, such a suggestion might make the gift of Arden a bit rare on Christmas shopping lists. But Arden has no worries about that; she has plenty of ideas for fine holiday gifts.

"One year I gave my dad a novelty two-handed toilet-paper holder. It looks like a butler is waiting on you while you're in the bathroom," she explains. "And you can't go wrong with one of those fake dummy arms. Use it when you're driving and stick it in your car. It looks like you're unintentionally dragging some small child around with his arm caught in the door."

Odd suggestions, but then anything could be better than the gift she received from her parents a couple years ago.

"They gave me this complicated kitty litter box where if you shake it, the turds fall into a tray. It's supposed to make cleaning up after your pets fun and efficient. It took me two weeks to figure out how to use it and they even forgot to wrap it."

Arden's asking for something much simpler than a poo-cleaning machine this Christmas: world peace. And really, with a phenomenal career, what else could a girl want?

Just like me, they long to be Closer to you

Closer

Directed by Mike Nichols
Starring Julia Roberts, Jude Law, Natalie Portman, and Clive Owen
Opens Friday, 3 December

IRIS TSE
Arts & Entertainment Writer

Hollywood loves adultery... movies. Films about these cheating hearts have been spectacular (*American Beauty*), underwhelming (*The Secret Lives of Dentists*) or boring (*We Don't Live Here Anymore*). *Closer* is the latest addition to the grand tradition: a story built around two couples and how they are hopelessly entangled in a web of self-destruction.

Adapted from the award-winning play of the same name, *Closer* begins with Alice (Natalie Portman) and Dan (the ubiquitous Jude Law)—the film's first couple—meeting because of a car accident. The second couple—Anna (Julia Roberts) and Larry (Clive Owen)—are brought together later in the film by a hilariously sleazy cybersex scene (which produced the most laughs of the entire movie). Suffice to say, these couples switch back and forth and fall in and out of love numerous times before the end credits roll.

All four of them start out as mildly sympathetic characters. Initially, you get a sense that the reason they are experiencing so much pain is because no one can control love. But as time wears on and as we see how these four people continue to wreak havoc on each other, any sympathy for them quickly evaporates. Their behaviour deteriorates into self-sabotage, manipulative, irresponsible immaturity. Sex, for the characters of



Closer, is for blackmail and revenge, and as the film goes on you start to realize that the reason the characters are in so much pain is because they brought it all on themselves.

But the audience isn't supposed to feel warm and fuzzy towards *Closer*'s cast. They are supposed to be odious to us; we are supposed to see how they exploit intimacy under the pretense of love. As Alice comments on Anna's photo shoot, saying, "It's a lie. A bunch of strangers photographed beautifully though," you have a feeling that she's describing the relationship between the four.

Though the chemistry between Roberts and Law seems to be tenuous at times, director Mike Nichols squeezes every bit of good acting from his cast. Natalie Portman was surprisingly well cast as a sexy, experienced yet confused woman

with a complicated history (and for those slobbering Portman fans out there, Queen Amidala strips down to her garter belt in this flick). Clive Owen is solid as a manipulative hypocrite. Jude Law is in his best role of the year so far as a cruel and selfish Lothario. In fact, the only disappointment was Julia Roberts, whose presence in the film is like a black hole that sucks out the raw, sexual energy from every single scene. Roberts feels out of place next to her co-stars—as though she were acting in an entirely different movie and the filmmakers just haphazardly decided to throw in a bunch of close-ups of her for the final edit.

Roberts aside, this is a quality movie that's worth watching. *Closer* is mature, well-written, and bolstered by (mostly) superb acting that intelligently questions the nature of love.

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Rebel without a card

Book on mass culture's love affair with the rebel was inspired by a Hallmark greeting

Hello, I'm Special: How Individuality Became the New Conformity

Panel Discussion
with Hal Niedzviecki
Latitude 53 Gallery
Thursday, 2 December at 8pm

DAVID BERRY
Opinion Editor

As Hal Niedzviecki has found out, it's not easy being an individual these days.

The co-founder and current publisher of *Broken Pencil* (a magazine devoted to underground culture in Canada), Niedzviecki was hit with a rude awakening on his 30th birthday: he found his independent lifestyle had been co-opted by the likes of Hallmark.

Receiving a card from his parents that said "Happy Birthday to a non-conformist," Niedzviecki went into an identity crisis—after all, it's hard to be an "individual" when your all-so-unique personality has a niche in mass culture.

But Niedzviecki's greeting card-fuelled panic led to more than pulled-out hair and grated teeth: the experience inspired him to write his book, *Hello, I'm Special: How Individuality Became the New Conformity*.

The book traces the rise in everyday life of what Niedzviecki calls "I'm Specialness": the pop-culture belief that you can do anything or be anyone, if that's what you really want. From backyard wrestlers broadcasting their suburban brawls on the Internet to rock 'n' roll rabbis, society has taken the idea of the "unique" individual, or the "rebel," and made it into the new standard of conforming.

"The 'I'm special' is a rebel, in the sense that they are willing to do anything to get what they want, which is recognition, attention, a feeling of specialness," explains Niedzviecki.

"At the same time, though, it's a conformist rebellion, because their mechanism of 'I'll do anything to get attention' is exactly what society wants them to do. They have to posture themselves as rebels, but of course there's nothing to rebel against. It becomes something where you have the feeling of freedom, but if you actually look closely at the way things work, the freedom isn't there."

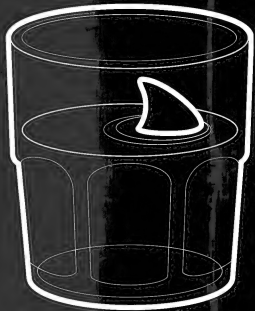
Niedzviecki traces the origins of the "special" movement back to James Dean and the notion of the "rebel without a cause": the idea that being special is an end in and of itself.

From there, being "special" has grown, through things like the counter-culture movement of the '60s and the punk culture of the '70s, to become the central theme of modern society.

"The idea that everyone has the potential to be a fully-realized, celebrity-tycoon superstar—that's the myth of our society," says Niedzviecki. "The flip side of that is that if you don't achieve these goals—and most people, of course, don't—then you have problems: you yourself have problems, these aren't the problems with society. The problem is your failure to assert your self-esteem and individuality in the right way."

But, while Niedzviecki readily acknowledges the problems with, as he puts it, "a society where everyone is obsessed with being a wrestler or a pop star," he still thinks this "I'm special" movement has its upsides—people just need to refocus.

"[We can't] just say, 'This whole individuality thing isn't amounting to what we hoped it would, so let's just scrap it and go back to the good old days,'" he explains. "The answer isn't to end the project of individualism; the answer is to demand real changes so that people have access to the most important things in our society and in [their] lives."



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BRETT LAMBERT

Arts & Entertainment Writer

In the late '90s, Scottish foursome Travis were well on their way to world domination with their endearingly sensitive, doe-eyed Brit pop, scoring such hits as "Why Does It Always Rain On Me?" and "Writing To Reach You," which recalled The Benders' Radiohead (something nearly all

Brit-pop bands are accused of doing these days). But something peculiar happened on the way to international stardom: Goldplay stole their thunder.

American girls (Gwyneth Paltrow especially) decided that Chris Martin serenading the ladies on a cloud-swept beach was waayy cuter than Travis' Fran Healy wondering why it always rained on him, and Travis couldn't quite make the same impact they made in their UK homeland.

Nevertheless, Singles, a collection of Travis singles spanning their four albums, should hopefully expose the band's essential material (distilled to 18 songs) to latecomers—songs such as "Driftwood," "Turn," "Slide" and plenty of others. A brand new track—"Walking In The Sun"—is also included to scam long-time fans into buying the same songs twice.

Listening to the collection's sweet melodies, it's clear Singles is a pretty decent compilation of one of the best British bands to emerge in the last decade. Listen and learn, newbies.

CAMPUS & E

TOTALLY RAD.



Moving Pictures remembers lost screen legend

Moving Pictures

Directors/Heads/Inglis
Starring Sharon Pollock, Owen
Hamilton, Mark Jenkins, Stephen Kent,
Kelly Spilchak and Candice Woloshyn
Studio Theatre
Opens Thursday, 2 December at 8pm

BRETT LAMBERT
Arts & Entertainment Writer

Even though people generally don't watch silent movies anymore, everybody knows the names of the pioneers of Hollywood cinema. There's Charlie Chaplin, Mary Pickford, DW Griffith, Buster Keaton and multitudes of others. But what about Nell Shipman? If you've never heard of her, unfortunately, you're not alone.

In the 1910s and '20s, Nell Shipman was decades ahead of her time. She was a stage and screen actress as well as a writer, director, ecologist and animal rights activist (50 years before Brigitte Bardot's time). Unlike the typical wily, victimized roles for female actresses of the day, Shipman's characters were strong and always saved the gentleman in distress.

And, at the time, her name could have been uttered in the same breath as the silent-film figures listed above, but as Shipman eventually came to reject the big Hollywood system to produce her own independent films, she paid the price of ending up a footnote in film history.

In Studio Theatre's *Moving Pictures*, written by Governor General Award-winning Canadian playwright Sharon Pollock, Shipman's whole life is recreated for a new audience.

"This is the story of a woman's life—a woman who was committed to working in a particular art form, faces incredible challenges and at the end of her life looks at it



SILENCE IS GOLDEN Sharon Pollock and Kelly Spilchak in *Moving Pictures*.

and says 'What the hell did I do that for?'" explains Pollock, who stars as Shipman. "The play explores that dedication to whatever profession you're committed to. It could be medicine, it could be engineering, for all I know. In Nell Shipman's case, it happened to be filmmaking."

In *Moving Pictures*, Shipman's life story is recreated in three different stages of her life—youth, middle age and old age—and it chronicles her relationships with Thomas Edison, Samuel Goldwyn (of MGM) and her production manager Bert Van Tuyle.

"I took certain external key events in her life and we see her relive those," explains Pollock. "At the same time, we see her in a conflict with herself in relation to those events. What you have is a landscape of her internal journey, which is more my creation. I have no idea if the real Nell bore any relationship in terms of the internal conflict."

"Thomas Edison spoke of putting

three cameras trained simultaneously on a subject," explains Steph Kent, who plays Edison, Goldwyn, and Van Tuyle. "If you take certain events from each film, that will be the most accurate representation. Through these three perspectives, it's up to the audience to put it together themselves. That's what I like about the play; it doesn't draw conclusions for you."

Kent also appreciates the play's focus on a real-life person who dared to do what was important to her, no matter the cost.

"It's interesting that you often see these kinds of films or plays of people outside the system and they succeed and are well-known to this day," says Kent.

"But this is a person who stepped outside that system and paid the price for that. That's tragic and you don't see that on stage. I think it's sobering in a way. You really ask yourself, 'Has she succeeded?'"

Land of the fear and home of the brave

Unconstitutional: The War on Civil Liberties

Directed by Robert Greenwald
Available on DVD

SCOTT C. BOURGEOIS
Arts & Entertainment Writer

Since 11 September, 2001, the Bush administration has made it clear that the protection of United States of America is their paramount concern. A noble sentiment, but director Robert Greenwald believes the cost of this protection is too high.

Greenwald's political documentary *Unconstitutional: The War on Civil Liberties* aims to expose what he sees as the terrifying, totalitarian actions of a paranoid government that has begun to see the enemy everywhere it looks.

It unveils many of the more unusual and paranoid actions of the government in the post-11 September world, such as the seizing of library records, and civic police giving federal authorities information on both the perpetrators and victims of crimes.

With video clips featuring former Attorney General John Ashcroft, concerned government legislators,

outraged lawyers, and innocent victims of the US government's actions, *Unconstitutional* takes a critical look at everything from the Orwellian Patriot Act to the grim Guantanamo Bay prison where the laws of the Geneva Convention don't apply.

The documentary also touches upon some recent events since 11 September such as the underhanded passing of the Patriot Act through congress, and the rounding up of immigrants and ex-patriots for deportation immediately after the attack on the World Trade Center.

One particularly telling story features a family of Muslim immigrants who were held in custody shortly after 11 September for no "crime" other than being Muslim immigrants. In the night, their home was invaded by US military police and the family was imprisoned for several months without counsel or trial. So much for the land of the free.

Greenwald's film, however, offers no counter-argument in support of the Patriot Act and the actions of the government.

With no opposing viewpoint, the documentary might seem somewhat

biased. With the political climate being as hot as it is in the States, many right-wing pundits and supporters would likely label this film as a bleeding-heart Michael Moore-esque film like *Fahrenheit 9/11*.

Moreover, with it only recently becoming widely available—*Unconstitutional* was initially only available through Internet purchase—the film may be too little, too late in the struggle to create dissent against the Bush administration's nefarious policies. Wider availability prior to the recent presidential election may have been a better strategy for the film's distributors.

These things aside, the documentary is solid and the message is clear. The humanity and helplessness of the victims of the US government's police-state-like activities make *Unconstitutional* an engaging and informative documentary.

And, though the articles of the Patriot Act don't really have much of a bearing on Canadians, the unsettling stripping away of civil liberties that is occurring south of the border should be a concern to everyone who lives in a free society.

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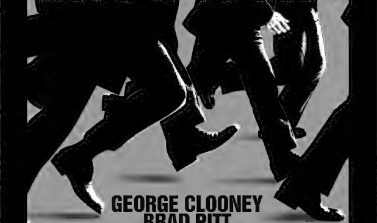
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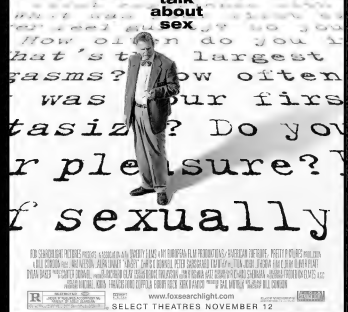
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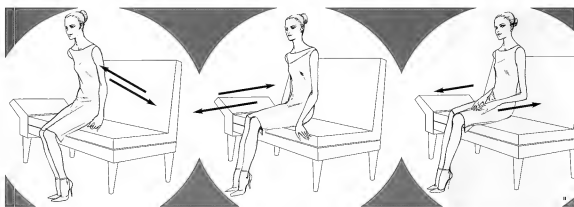
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MISS LEAH COLLINS
& MISS CATILAN CRAWSHAW
Lady Editors

For the modern unwashed masses, knowing the difference between a cocktail fork and a fish fork might not seem terribly important, especially for a newly minted career girl or boy. But the creators of *UdefineU*—a new self-help DVD set for ambitious professional women—would (politely) beg to differ.

The four-DVD *UdefineU* set is broken up into four half-hour segments: Posture and Poise, Voice and Speech, Etiquette, and Fundamentals of Style. The result is more or less a finishing school in a box for upper-middle-class women—and only women—with a desire to gracefully move up the rungs of the business ladder. The series has been developed as a strategy for ambitious professional women to make themselves stand out, through poise—and distinctly feminine—virtues. It's the focus on feminine mystique that makes the whole effort seem a little odd and antiquated. And while anyone can agree—female, male, professional or no—with the benefits of many of the series' lessons (tips on healthy posture, respectful social behaviour, correct pronunciation, clear and confident communication, etc.), the importance of other lessons taught for their inherent girl power—things like how to sensu-

ally reach for your glass using a limp-wristed ballet port-à-bras movement, or how to demurely accessorize any outfit with, as quoted from the set's fashion handbook, "PEARLS, PEARLS, PEARLS!"—are given no other rationale for being in the program other than being inherently sensual and elegant. And that's all lovely, but really, darling, even if you're a certified lady, that alone isn't going to get you the bay-window office with junior executive pencilled on the door.

As for the discs themselves, the old adage "practice what you preach" is a suitable criticism. While the series advocates the importance of grace, clear communication, and elegance of style, the *UdefineU* production is stiffly performed and poorly produced (aside from the tacky infomercial sets, the sound quality is unfortunately akin to listening to voices taped by a Fisher Price boom box).

A stiff-necked Stanford Wife hosts the series, "interviewing" various experts about the program's four themes. Disc one's expert is ballet dancer Maria Verdeja, who instructs viewers on the proper way to sit, stand, get up from a chair or out of the car. Lessons on proper movement are quick and often supplemented by poorly rendered and nearly incomprehensible sketched diagrams. The viewer, even on repeated watching, has no guarantee of actually being able to mimic the ladies onscreen.

The voice and speech segment is perhaps a little more useful, though the expert on the subject, Joyce Sarandon, is blatantly nervous throughout, jerking and fidgeting (breaking the rules of body language outlined in the previous disc) as she explains the prin-

ciples which should govern how one speaks. It makes good sense that one should want to communicate clearly and effectively. But the message in this segment, as in all of the segments, is that one needs to maintain a confident-yet-feminine presence in all circumstances, and this focus on the feminine and sensual is never directly explained.

Etiquette is the most informative and generally helpful DVD. Whether male or femininity conscious female, there will always be circumstances when knowing the etiquette protocols will help one avoid embarrassment in a formal setting. And, with the formal intricacies of proper forks and conversational manners often going unsaid, it's a boon for those looking for a quick way to have those cutlery-related mysteries revealed.

Sadly, just as the series is beginning to pick up, the last section, Fashion Essentials, reminds the viewers of the program's flaws. While it makes some common-sense points about the effectiveness of a simple classic wardrobe, the lesson on elegance is thrown out by the tacky, overdone presentation—over-sized, multicoloured scarves hang in the background, and the models in their "classic" suits and slingsback pumps look less timeless, more 1992.

If anything, the general flaw of the program is that its presentation is so out of touch with the basic—often common-sense—principles that it tries to teach. But these principles, unfortunately, can't be seen for all the feminine mystique and teleprompter-read dialogue.

Quelle dommage; back to Swiss boarding school.



Leonard Cohen

Dear Heather
Columbia Records
www.leonardcohen.com

BEN MACGROUSKI
Arts & Entertainment Writer

If you've ever heard Leonard Cohen, then to say that he has a gift for mesmerizing lyrics put to simple rhythms is the absolute understatement of the his three-decade career.

That said, Leonard Cohen is back on new album *Dear Heather* with his smoky, wine-soaked rap and painfully off-tempo approach to raising the bar for songwriters.

In front of a musical backing that could have been created using a mini-keyboard purchased at K-Mart, Cohen sings—as only he can—inviting singer/producer Sharon Robinson to join him and soften his gravely, murmuring vocal style.

If you're in the mood to be alone

and drink a vintage red in the dark while reminiscing on past loves, then this album will deliver.

But if you can't handle a non-climatic buildup of poetic meandering, then stick to Cohen's vast library of cover songs. (The songs of this Canadian poet/songwriter have been covered by the likes of—to name a few—Jeff Buckley, REM, The Pixies, and Buffy Sainte-Marie.)

The album's sleazy tones are typically Cohen, but annoying musical experimentation such as the prominent use of the Jew's harp in "On That Day" leave the listener with one sentiment: better luck next time Cohen—I need drink.

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Mix MASTER MIKE WHAT'CHA GOT TO SAY?



“‘Cause nobody can do it like Mix Master can...”

It was 1998, and mainstream airwaves were clogged with Spice Girls, Backstreet Boys and Limp Bizkit, when the Beastie Boys yelled those immortal words. Thus began the video for “3 MCs and One DJ,” introducing the MTV generation to one Michael Schwartz, aka Mix Master Mike. Suddenly, scratching and turntablism went from obscure underground curiosity to ubiquitous pop-culture institution, and Mix Master Mike became an overnight celebrity.

While he doesn't mind the attention and accolades he has received over the last half decade, Mix Master Mike does have a few issues with the way the culture he helped bring above ground has been co-opted in recent years.

“The whole commercialization of hip hop left an ill taste in my mouth,” he explains on the phone from his hotel room in Chicago before preparing to entertain another sold-out crowd on the Beastie Boys' current world tour.

“There's things that piss me off: Heineken commercials with DJs are bullshit. Right Guard commercials with turntables are stupid.”

It's all a little bewildering for Mix Master Mike. A decade ago, scratching was a cultural oddity, and Mix Master Mike was wooing fans of the genre as a member of Invisibl Skratch Piklz, an acclaimed DJ collective that won the world scratching competition so many times that they were eventually barred from entering.

Mike and Scratching's relative obscurity was turned on its head when Mix Master Mike joined up with the Beasties to create 1998's *Hello Nasty*. Pairing the smart and infectious rhymes of the Beastie Boys with Mix Master Mike's deconstructed, post-modern beats and hooks, the album met with critical acclaim and massive commercial success. It also launched Mix Master Mike into the spotlight, a role he relishes for the opportunities it provides.

“I have to thank the Beastie Boys for providing the platform for me to do what I do,” he says. “They allowed me to show kids that don't know about the art of turntablism that I can play the turntable like an instrument.”

There's no doubt in Mike's mind that the turntable is a musical instrument. “I look at the turntable, and I look at my record collection, and I look at my drum machines and shit and I can go in any direction,” Mike explains, adding that he abhors the way that many mainstream hip-hop DJs merely sample other artists without any degree of creativity.

“If you're going to take somebody's music, you have to flip it,” Mike says. “That's what being a musician is about: whatever you take from someone else you just have to break it up and reassemble it in your own way.”

Mike is also bemused at the way some artists are borrowing the aesthetic of turntable culture without the ideals. “I saw Linkin Park and Slipknot and they had a DJ, but I didn't hear any turntables. What's with that?” he ponders.

With all this negativity towards the current state of popular music, it's not surprising that Mike is somewhat backward-looking in his musical tastes. “Most of what I listen to is from the early '70s; that's where my inspiration comes from,” he explains, lamenting the current state of pop. “Music is not as exciting as it was back when we had, you know, Led Zeppelin and Hendrix and even, like, Public Enemy. I just hope groups start to bring the fun back.”

Mike is doing his part to make music more exciting with the release of *Bangzilla*, a solo album almost three years in the making. The disc is vintage Mix Master Mike, combining clips from old TV shows and cheesy film scores with crushing beats and dynamite hooks.

“I've always been into cinematic shit: ‘theme music,’ I like to call it,” says Mike. “I grew up around a lot of that stuff, and it kind of sticks with me to this day. I wanted to bring together all that shit, all my favorite clips. I wanted to resurrect that era, musically.”

Even without vocals (other than sound clips of everyone from Florence Henderson to Darth Vader), *Bangzilla* has a narrative—an almost operatic feel to it—a characteristic that was not accidental, according to Mike.

“I wanted the listener to have their own, you know, visual thing going on in their head while they had the album on,” he explains. “I wanted *Bangzilla* to be universal.”

As for the future, Mike has no intention of slowing down, even at the age of 34. Right now he's thrilled to continue touring with the Beastie Boys, a collaboration that shows no sign of ending anytime soon.

“It's more of a brotherhood,” he explains. “They know that I have their back, musically, and they have mine as well.”

Regardless of where Mix Master Mike goes from here, he promises that his goals—in music and in life—will never change. “I want to put smiles on kids' faces,” he laughs. “My objective is just to reach out and have fun.”

Feature by Ross Moroz
Photos by Leanne Fong
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LINES OF DAN'S RIVEL

Well I hope you all enjoyed the 2004 edition of the Gateway. Next Tuesday we will be releasing our annual joke issue entitled the Getaway and then you won't be able to pick up a fresh copy of the paper until 11 January. So, um Merry Christmas, Happy Chanukkah, Good Kwanzaa, Festive Festivus etc.

On the subject of us leaving and coming back, it's weird how everything is pushed back so far this year. I mean exams go late, so far into Christmas. Of course this would disturb me more if I had exams.



JEFFERY GREENAUS

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